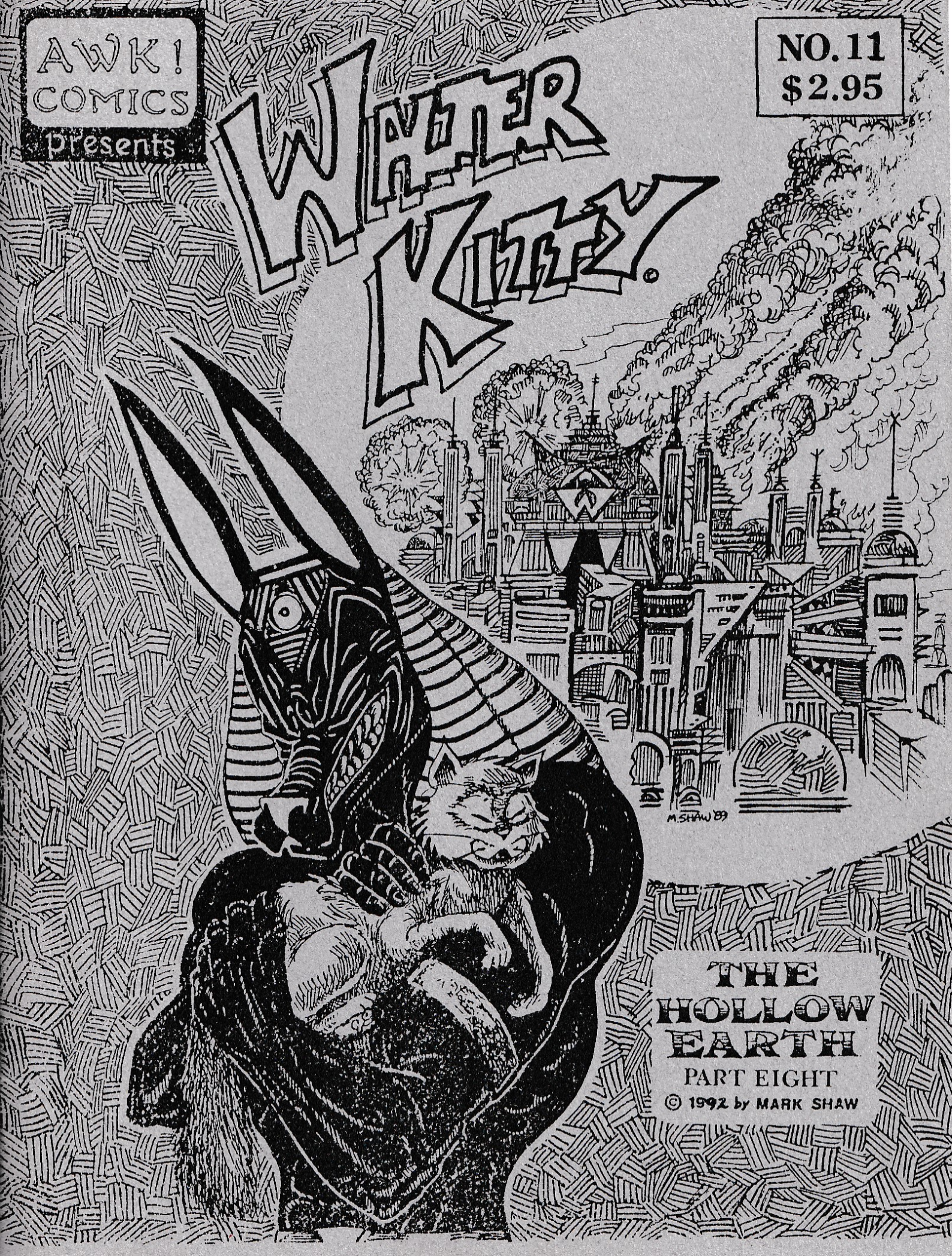
AWK! COMICS presents

WALTER KITTY

NO. 11
$2.95



THE HOLLOW EARTH

PART EIGHT

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WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

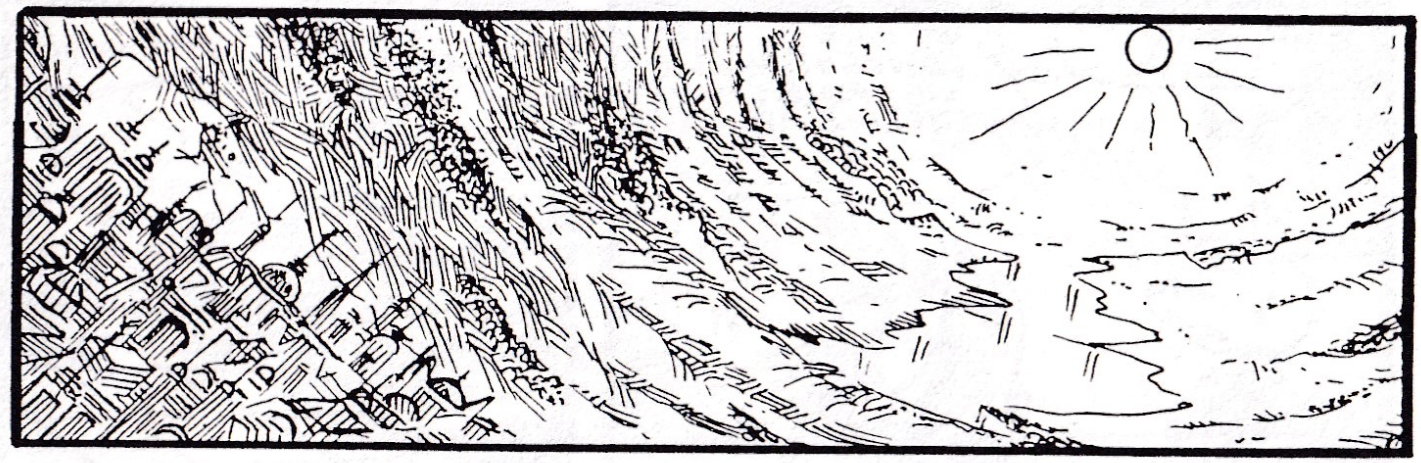
Our entire party, consisting of **WALTER, DR. ROBERT FOXX,** his daughter **CATHERINE,**and **PROF. OLIVER S. SCOTTY,** were **split up** while exploring the underground world beneath the earth's crust. Through the treachery of **PROF SCOTTY, CATHERINE** was captured by minions of the evil **ZANOMANON,** and taken to his fortress. There, she was forced to summon the sentient light-being known as the **SOURCE,** putting it under the malevolent control of **ZANOMANON,** who used it to cause massive worldwide **catastrophes** on the surface of the earth. **DR. FOXX** was reunited with his long lost **wife, MARIANA,** who revealed that she belonged to a race of people living at the center of the earth in the city of **AGHARTA. WALTER,** meanwhile, had befriended a one-eyed pyramidal **giant** with incredible mental powers who called himself **DENNIS.** With Dennis close on his heels, Walter found himself invading **Zanomanon's fortress** single-handedly, armed only with a disintigrator gun. He located **CATHERINE,** only to confront **ZANOMANON** himself, who used his power to transform living beings into other creatures on **WALTER,** who was changed into a **real kitty!!!**

And all the while, Zanomanon's **army** masses to attack **AGHARTA,** as the music swells and our story continues...

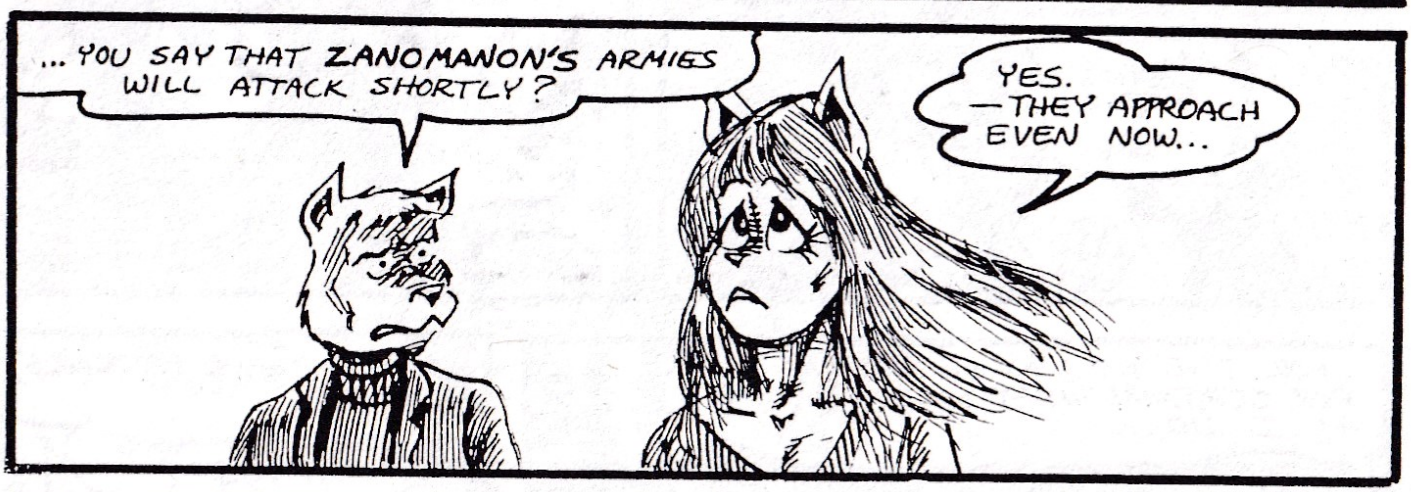
PART EIGHT:

ONLY A LAD

WALTER KITTY, Vol 1, No. 11, July 1992, published by AWK PROJECTS, 2701 Penny Lane, #219, Austin, Texas 78758. Published whenever we can. Copyright c 1992 by Mark Shaw. All rights reserved. Price:$2.95 per copy. Walter Kitty, the characters in this comic book and their distinctive likenesses are the property of Mark Shaw, AKA "Uncle" Mark. No similarity between any of the characters, names, persons or institutions with those of any living or dead person or institutions is intended. Any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. HA HA HAA!! HA HA HA HA HAAAA!!!



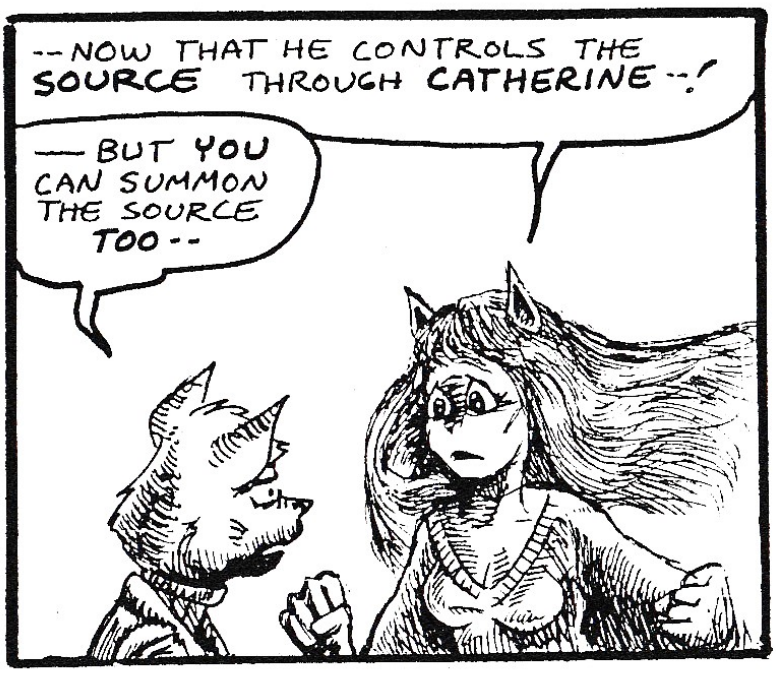
MARIANA...
YES, ROBERT...?


...YOU SAY THAT ZANOMANON'S ARMIES WILL ATTACK SHORTLY?
YES. —THEY APPROACH EVEN NOW...

WHAT WILL YOU DO? YOUR PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE NO WEAPONS--
OUR MINDS ARE OUR WEAPONS--!

YOUR MINDS?
WE HAVE LITTLE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY -- UNLIKE THE BOOTS...

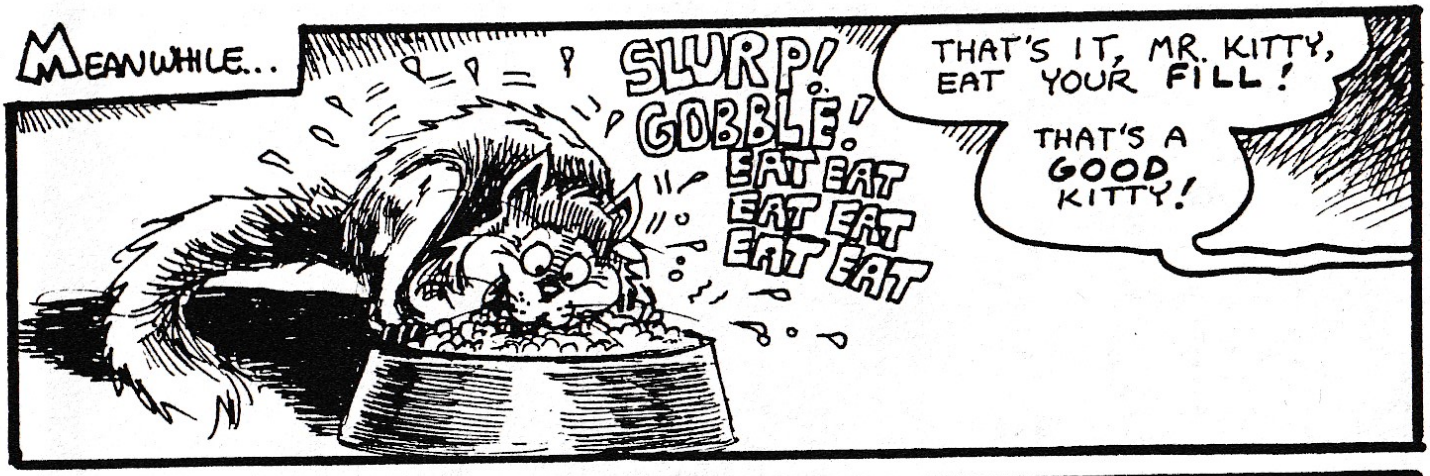
BUT... YOU HAVE SPACE SHIPS -- COULDN'T YOU ESCAPE?
THERE IS NOWHERE WE COULD ESCAPE FROM ZANOMANON --

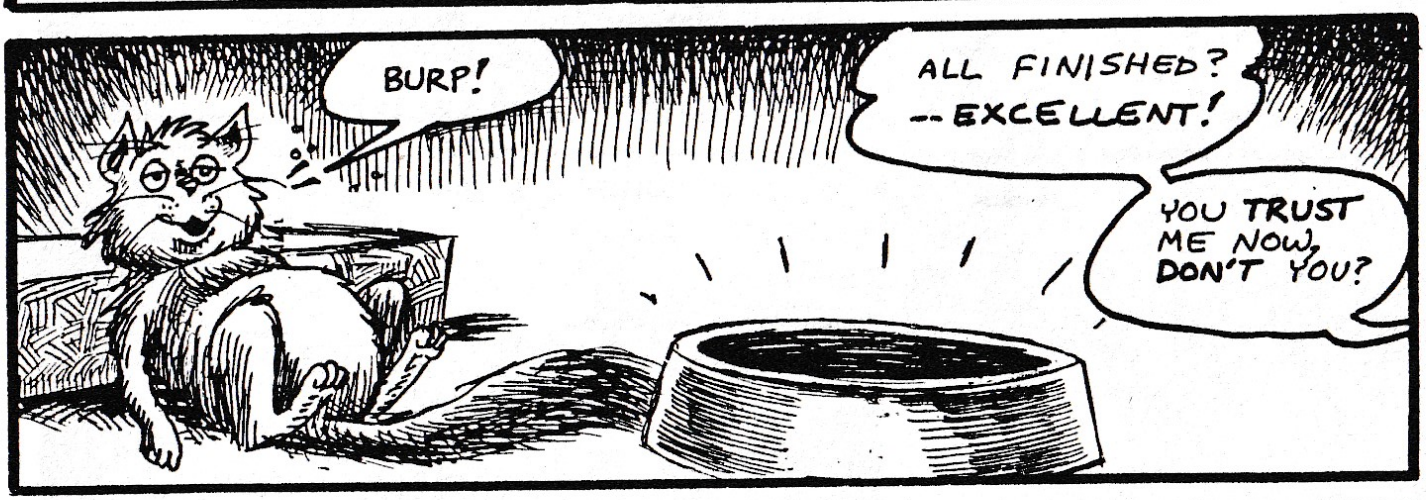

--NOW THAT HE CONTROLS THE SOURCE THROUGH CATHERINE --!
— BUT YOU CAN SUMMON THE SOURCE TOO --

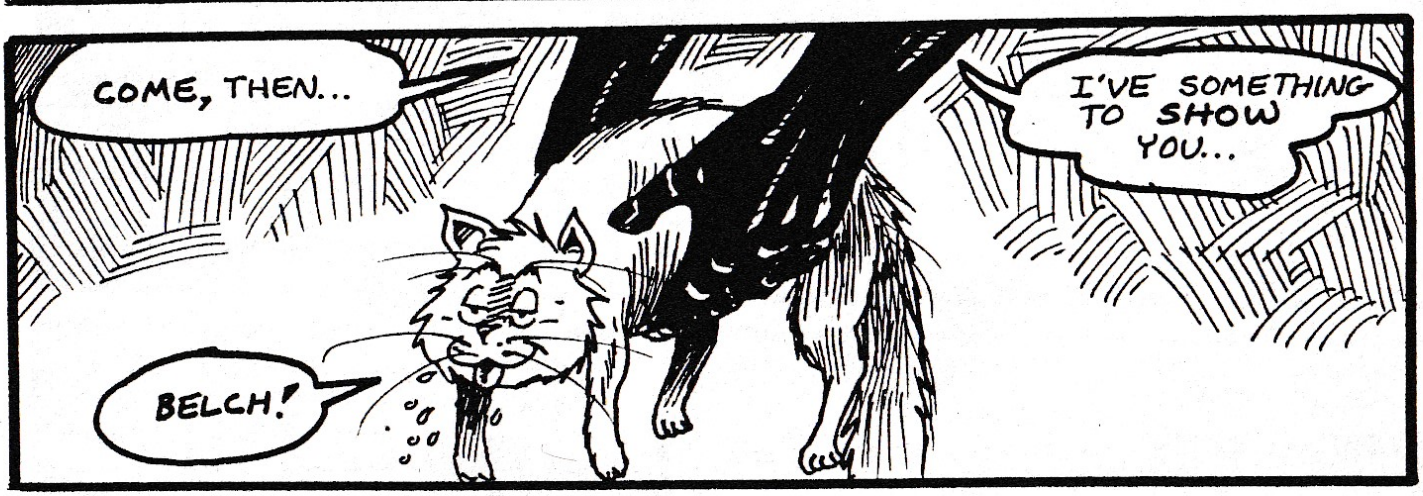
YES -- BUT I DARE NOT -- AT LEAST -- NOT UNTIL THERE IS NO OTHER RECOURSE...

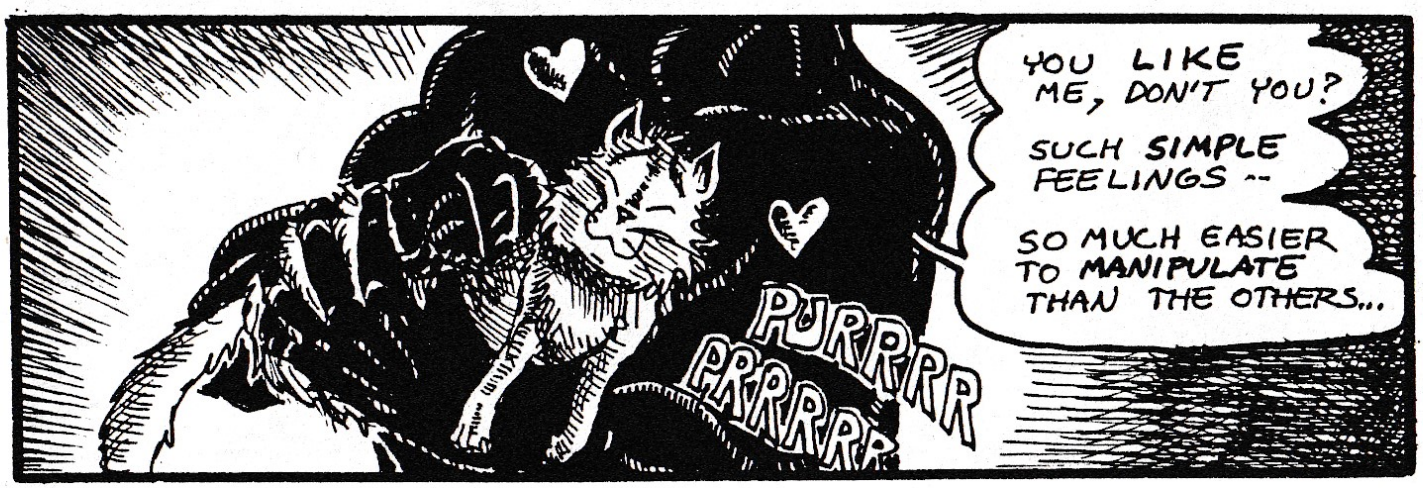
...FOR I'VE NO WAY OF KNOWING FOR CERTAIN WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO --
SO...
SIGH EVENTS ARE IN MOTION THAT CANNOT BE STOPPED --

YOU MUST HAVE PATIENCE, ROBERT...
THE NEXT MOVE IS HIS --!


MEANWHILE...
SLURP! GOBBLE! EAT EAT EAT EAT EAT EAT
THAT'S IT, MR. KITTY, EAT YOUR FILL!
THAT'S A GOOD KITTY!


BURP!
ALL FINISHED? --EXCELLENT!
YOU TRUST ME NOW, DON'T YOU?


COME, THEN...
I'VE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU...
BELCH!


YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?
SUCH SIMPLE FEELINGS --
SO MUCH EASIER TO MANIPULATE THAN THE OTHERS...
PURRRRR
PRRRRRR

— A BIT OF FOOD AND YOUR LOYALTY IS ASSURED
— I FIND SUCH SIMPLICITY REFRESHING!
SIGH...

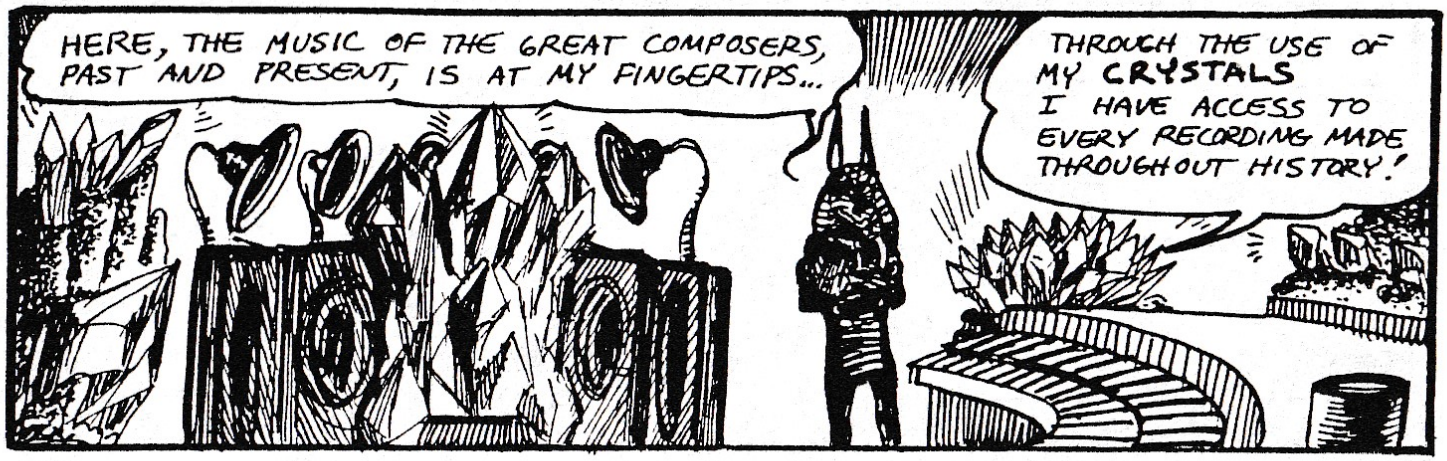
I DON'T TERRIFY YOU-- DO I?
YOU LIKE ME FOR MYSELF...
— DON'T YOU?

THIS IS MY PRIVATE WING...

THIS IS WHERE I GO TO BE ALONE...
TO RELAX...
TO CONTEMPLATE...

SOON, MY ARMY WILL BE CONTACTING MY ENEMIES
-- SOON -- MY GREATEST DESIRE WILL BE REALIZED...

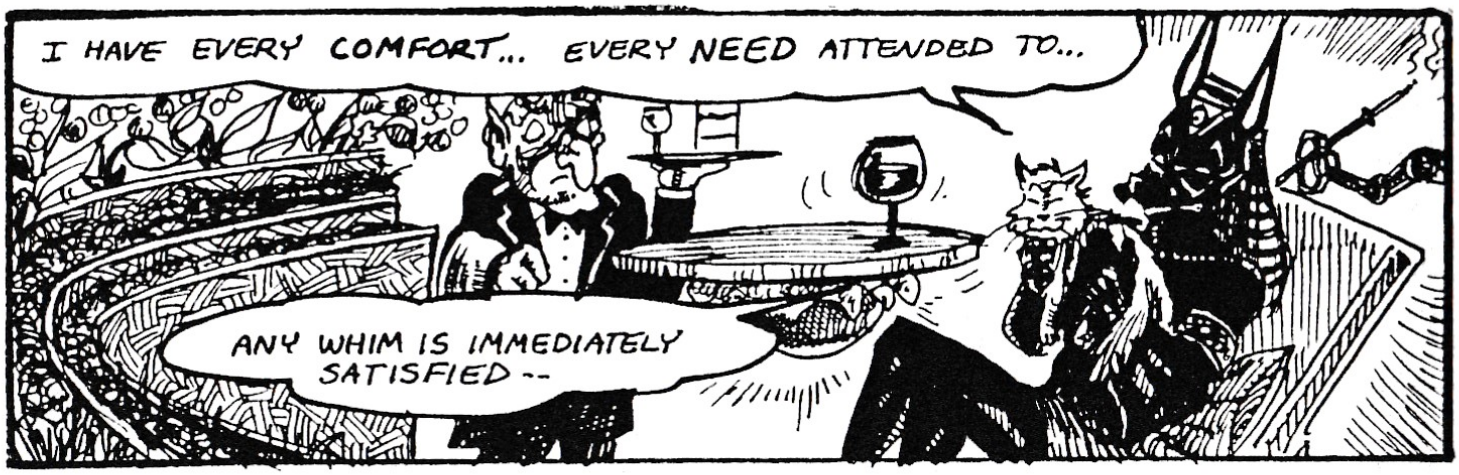
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE MONITORING THEM...
BUT TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT...
WALTER


HERE, THE MUSIC OF THE GREAT COMPOSERS, PAST AND PRESENT, IS AT MY FINGERTIPS...
THROUGH THE USE OF MY CRYSTALS I HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY RECORDING MADE THROUGHOUT HISTORY!

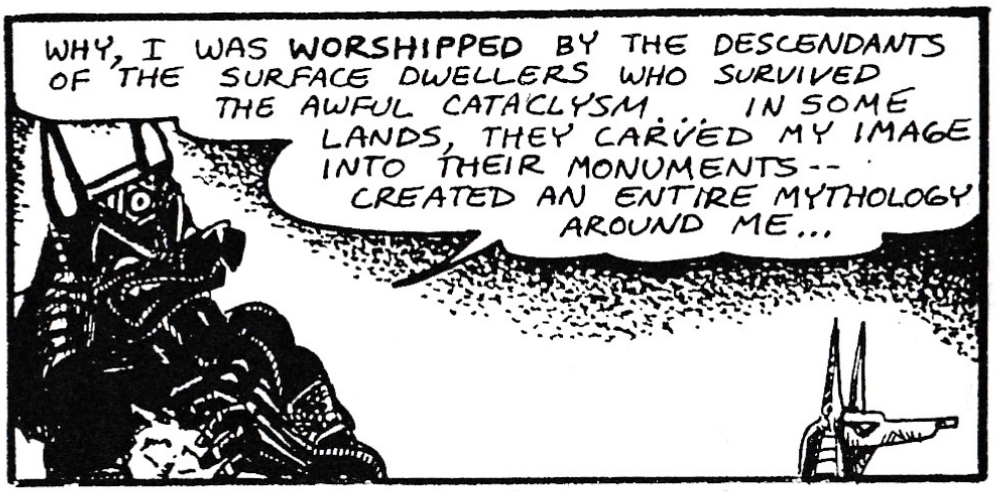
IN MY LIBRARY, I HAVE VIRTUALLY EVERY WORK OF LITERATURE AND NON-FICTION EVER WRITTEN! LAO-TSU -- PLATO -- POE -- VERNE --
BOTS ALLOWED!
THEY ARE ALL HERE...

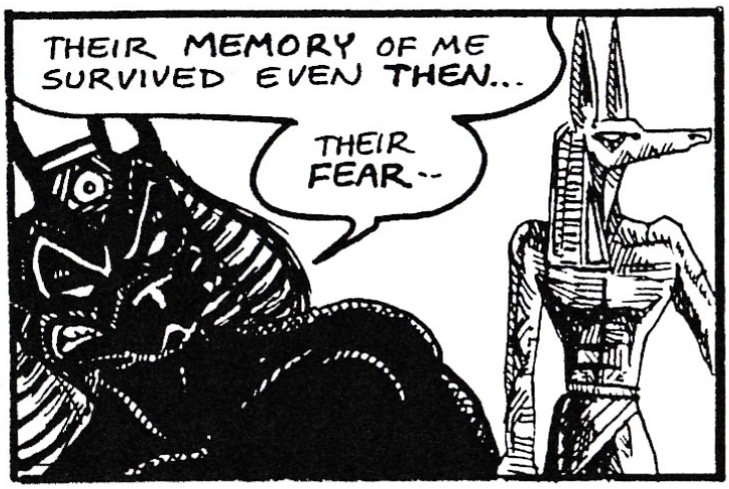
WORKS OF ART ADORN MY WALLS -- BUT NOT JUST ANY ART! UNKNOWN ORIGINALS BY THE MASTERS -- -- WORKS THOUGHT LOST OR DESTROYED -- SOME TOTALLY UNKNOWN BY THOSE ON THE SURFACE!

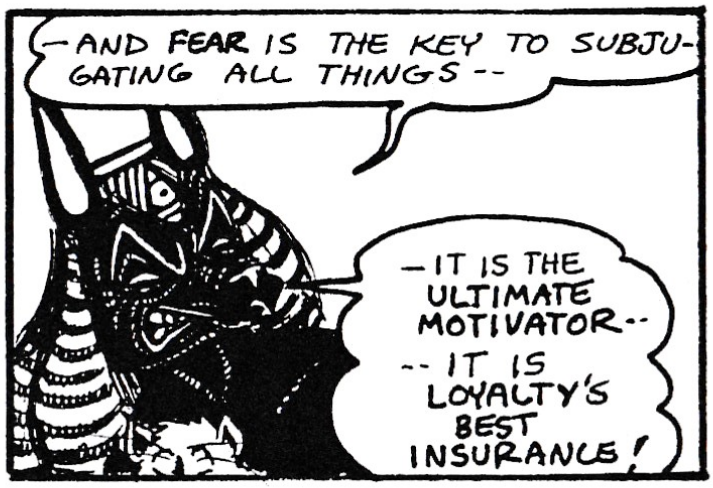
...AND HERE, IN MY SECRET TRIPLE-LOCKED VAULT IS MY VAST COLLECTION OF BRONZE, SILVER, AND GOLDEN-AGE COMIC BOOKS --
--ALL SAFELY SEALED IN BREATHABLE MYLAR-- -- ALL IN MINT CONDITION!!


I HAVE EVERY COMFORT... EVERY NEED ATTENDED TO...
ANY WHIM IS IMMEDIATELY SATISFIED --

--BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH!

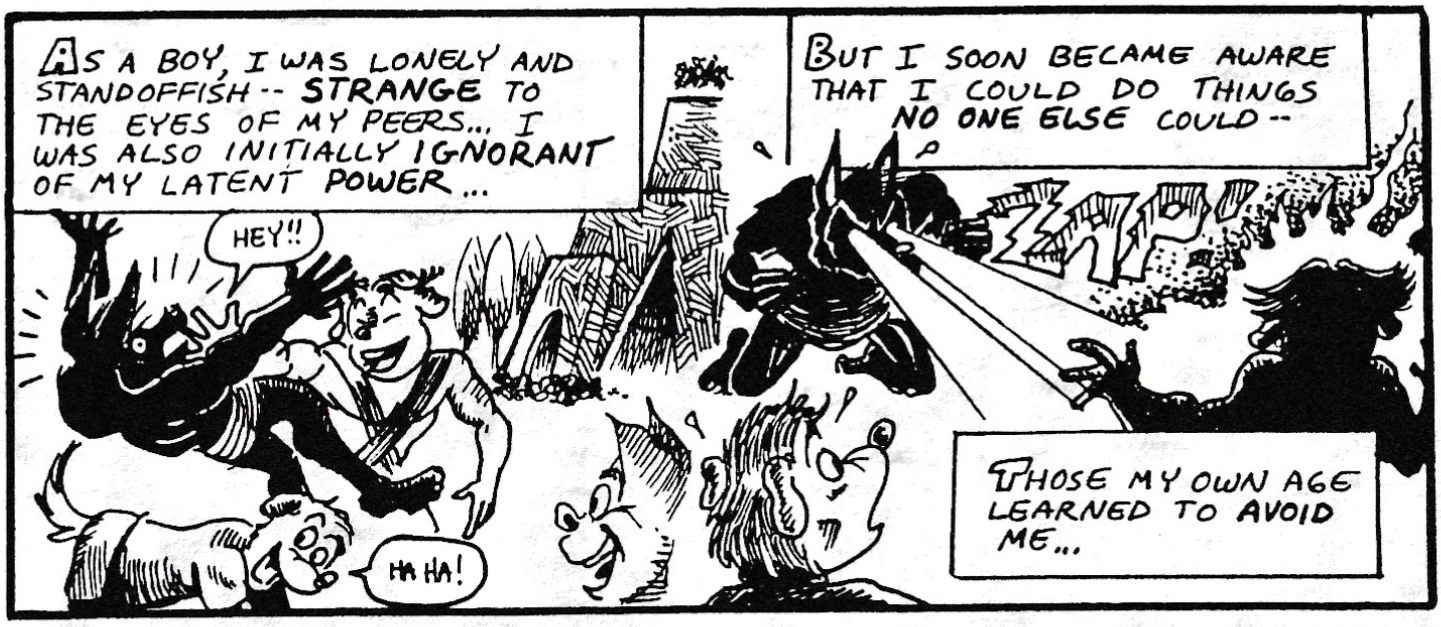

WHY, I WAS WORSHIPPED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE SURFACE DWELLERS WHO SURVIVED THE AWFUL CATACLYSM... IN SOME LANDS, THEY CARVED MY IMAGE INTO THEIR MONUMENTS -- CREATED AN ENTIRE MYTHOLOGY AROUND ME...


THEIR MEMORY OF ME SURVIVED EVEN THEN...
THEIR FEAR--


--AND FEAR IS THE KEY TO SUBJUGATING ALL THINGS --
--IT IS THE ULTIMATE MOTIVATOR--
--IT IS LOYALTY'S BEST INSURANCE!

--FEAR, BACKED UP BY FORCE...
PURRRR PURRRR

I FOUND THAT OUT WHEN I WAS JUST A CHILD -- --MANY YEARS AGO--IN ATLANTIS...


AS A BOY, I WAS LONELY AND STANDOFFISH -- STRANGE TO THE EYES OF MY PEERS... I WAS ALSO INITIALLY IGNORANT OF MY LATENT POWER...
HEY!!
HA HA!
BUT I SOON BECAME AWARE THAT I COULD DO THINGS NO ONE ELSE COULD --
ZAP
THOSE MY OWN AGE LEARNED TO AVOID ME...

... AND I CAME TO RECOGNIZE THE LOOK THAT CAME OVER THE FACES OF THOSE IN MY PRESENCE...
-- I CAME TO RELISH IT!
ARF!

AS A YOUTH, I FOUND MY LOT AN EASY ONE.. WHEN I DESIRED SOMETHING, IT WAS GIVEN TO ME -- --NO ONE DENIED ME ANYTHING!
— THEY DARED NOT!

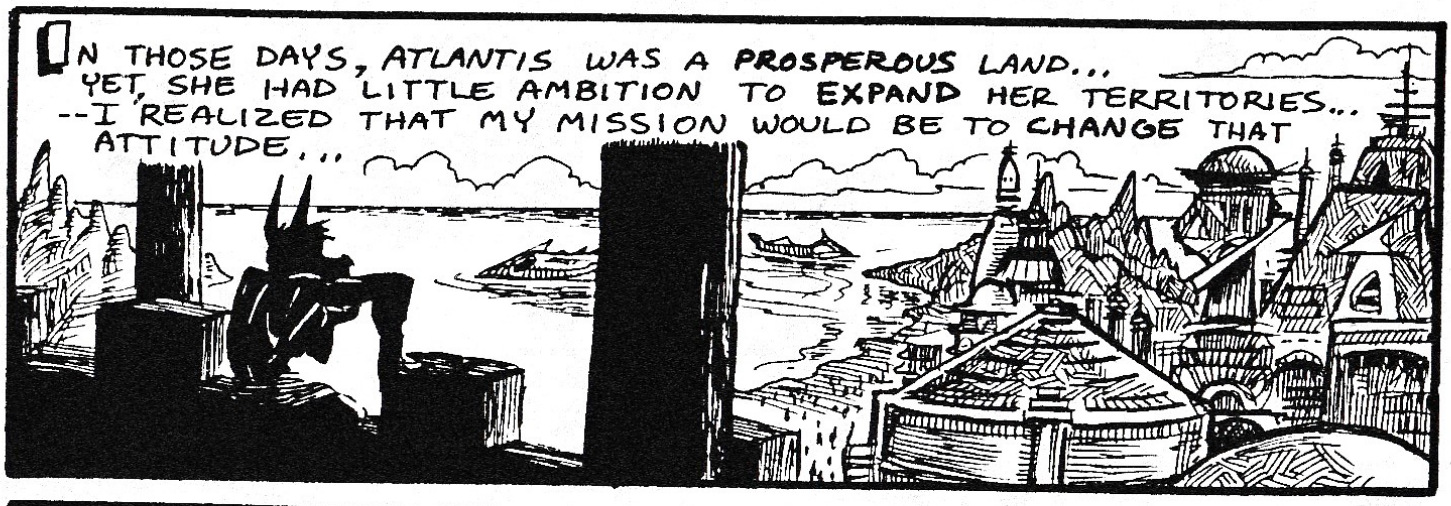
... BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH --!

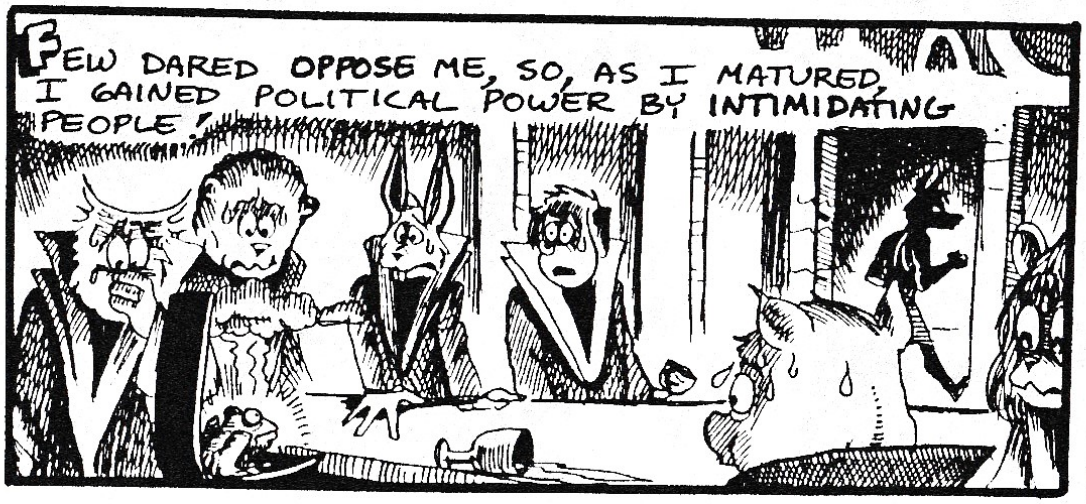
I SOON GREW BORED WITH MY LIFE -- I BEGAN TO LOOK FOR NEW CHALLENGES... NEW INTERESTS...
I REMEMBER, AS A CHILD I HAD A TOY -- A BALL WITH THE EARTH PAINTED ON IT...

THAT BALL WAS MY MOST TREASURED POSESSION...
--LATER-- AS I GREW OLDER, I CAME TO REALIZE WHY--
POUND!
POUND!
POUND!
WHAM!
WHAM
WHAM

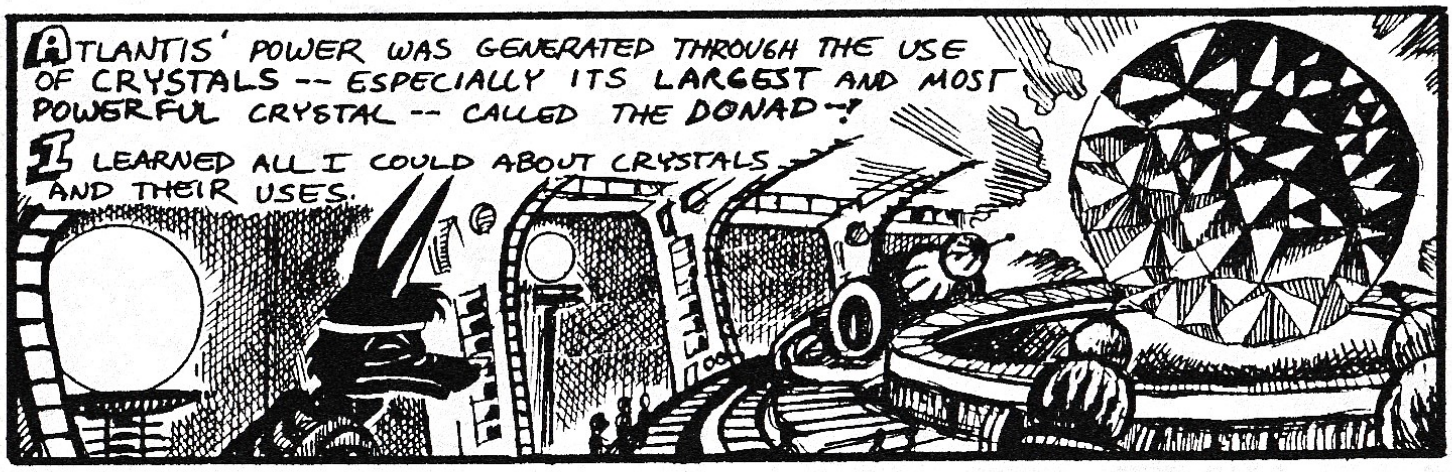
--IT SYMBOLIZED MY DESTINY--!
PUNT!

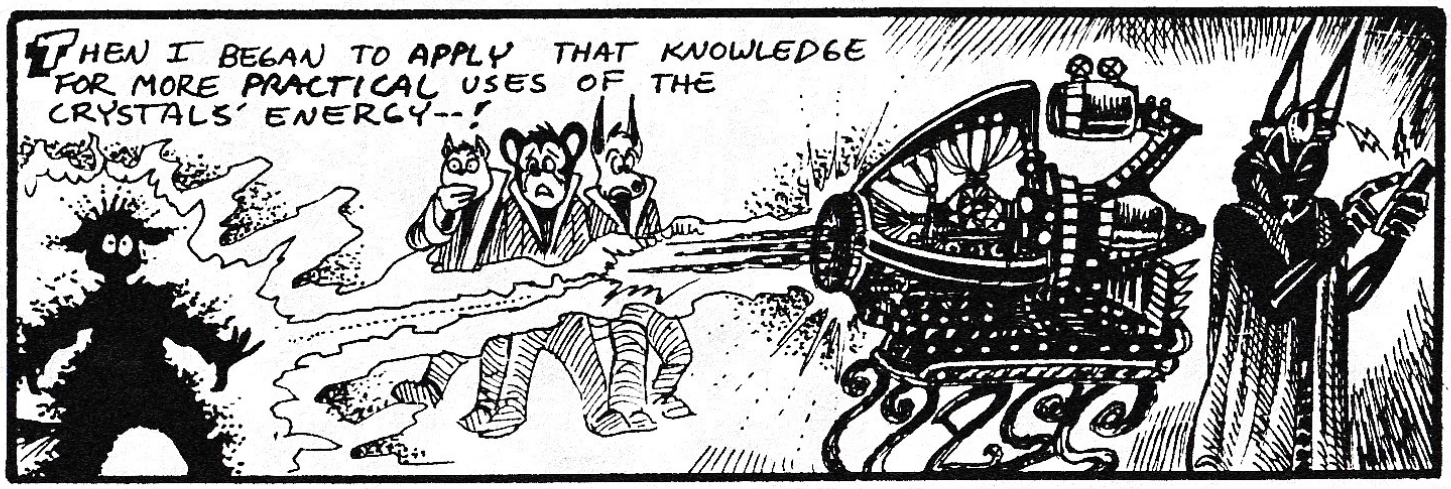
--AND I KNEW THAT ONE DAY I WOULD HOLD THE REAL WORLD IN MY PALM-- JUST AS I HELD THAT CHILD'S TOY...
FOOOOSSHH!

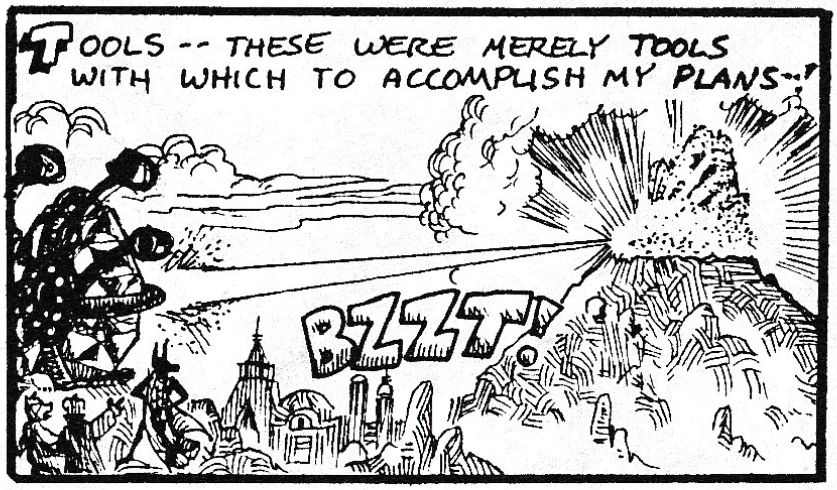

IN THOSE DAYS, ATLANTIS WAS A PROSPEROUS LAND... YET, SHE HAD LITTLE AMBITION TO EXPAND HER TERRITORIES... --I REALIZED THAT MY MISSION WOULD BE TO CHANGE THAT ATTITUDE...

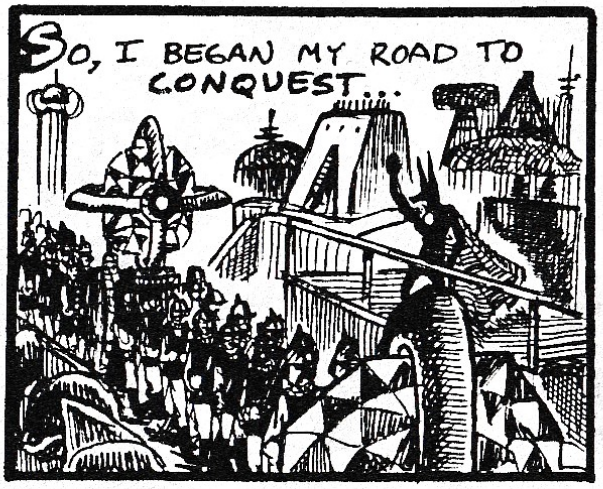

FEW DARED OPPOSE ME, SO, AS I MATURED, I GAINED POLITICAL POWER BY INTIMIDATING PEOPLE!

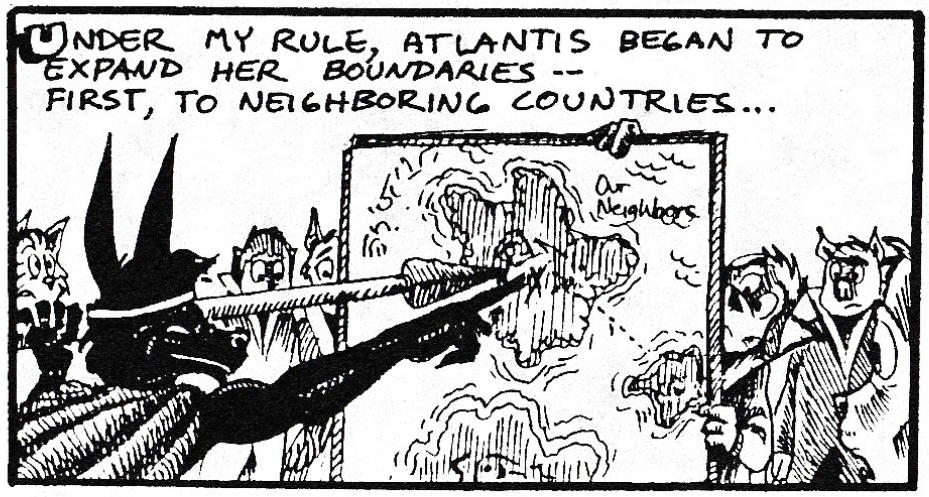
BEFORE LONG, I WAS ABSOLUTE RULER OF ATLANTIS!


ATLANTIS' POWER WAS GENERATED THROUGH THE USE OF CRYSTALS -- ESPECIALLY ITS LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL CRYSTAL -- CALLED THE DONAD--!
I LEARNED ALL I COULD ABOUT CRYSTALS AND THEIR USES.


THEN I BEGAN TO APPLY THAT KNOWLEDGE FOR MORE PRACTICAL USES OF THE CRYSTALS' ENERGY--!


TOOLS -- THESE WERE MERELY TOOLS WITH WHICH TO ACCOMPLISH MY PLANS--!
BZZZT!

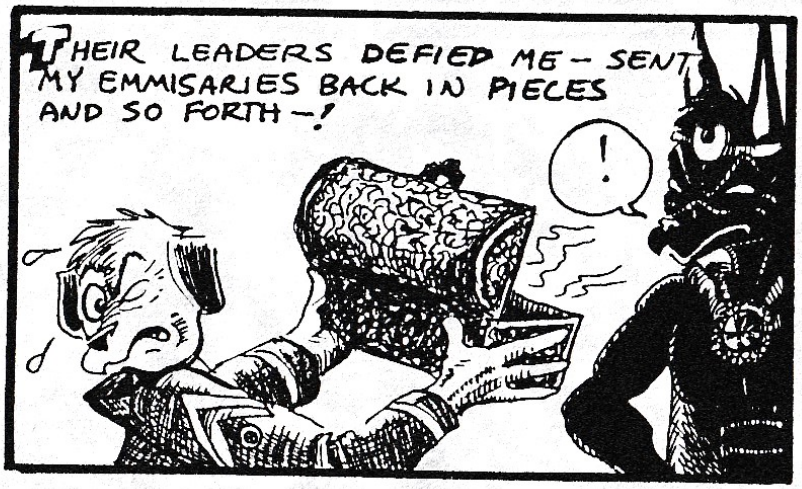

SO, I BEGAN MY ROAD TO CONQUEST...


UNDER MY RULE, ATLANTIS BEGAN TO EXPAND HER BOUNDARIES -- FIRST, TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES...
Our Neighbors

AND THEN TO MORE REMOTE ONES—

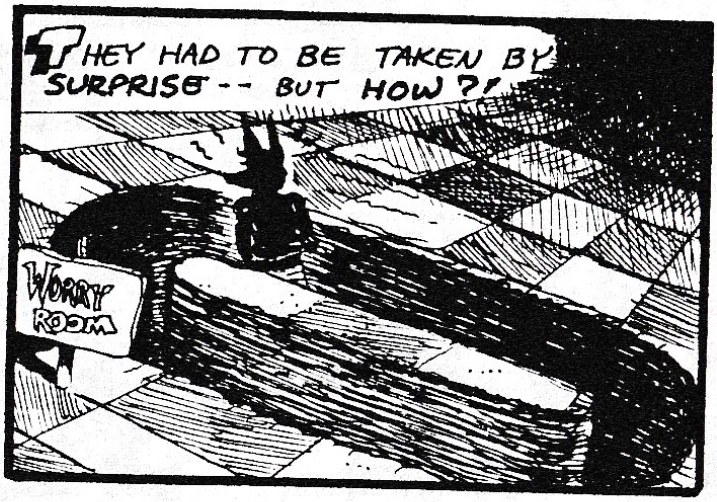
SOON, MY ARMIES HAD CONTROL OF NEARLY EVERY CIVILIZED SEA PORT— FEAR HELD THE REST OF THE WORLD IN THRALL...
OBOY!

—ONLY ONE WITHHELD TRIBUTE--
--ANCIENT CHINA
POUND! POUND! POUND!

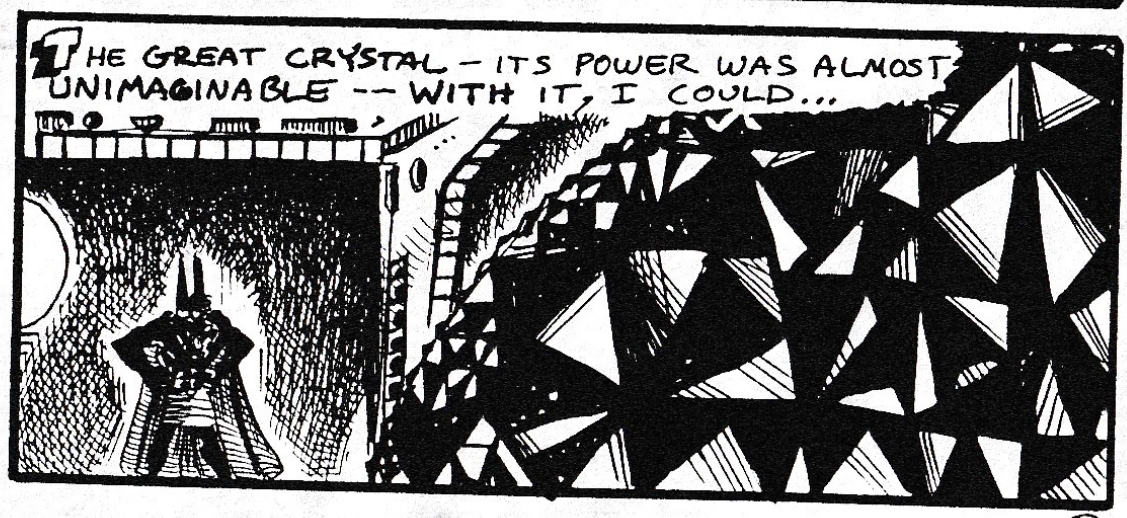

THEIR LEADERS DEFIED ME— SENT MY EMMISARIES BACK IN PIECES AND SO FORTH—!
!

THEY NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON...

MY SCOUTS REPORTED TO ME THAT CHINA HAD VAST ARMIES AND DEFENSES TO REPEL THE MOST DETERMINED INVADERS
AND IT WAS SUCH A LONG WAY AWAY-- THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE WORLD...

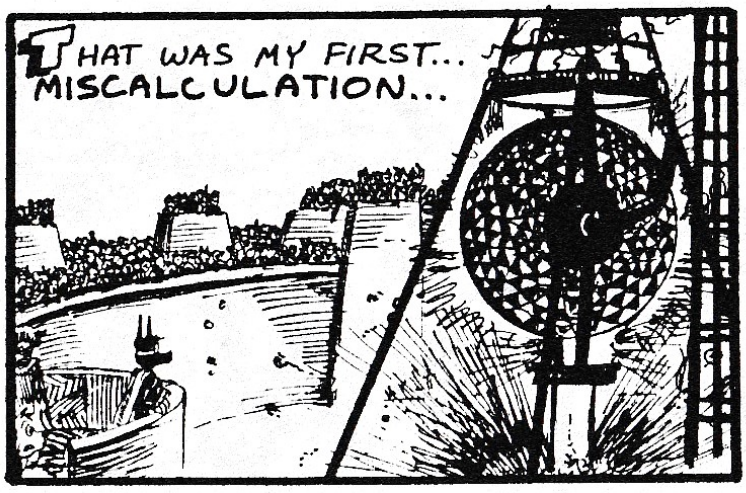

THEY HAD TO BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE -- BUT HOW?!
WORRY ROOM

THEN IT HIT ME!
AH!


THE GREAT CRYSTAL — ITS POWER WAS ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE -- WITH IT, I COULD...

...CREATE A PASSAGEWAY THROUGH THE EARTH THAT WOULD EMERGE IN CHINA-- PROVIDING A SHORT-CUT TO MY INVADING ARMIES!
ATLANTIS
CHINA

MY ADVISORS ADVISED AGAINST SUCH A MOVE-- I IGNORED THEM.


THAT WAS MY FIRST... MISCALCULATION...

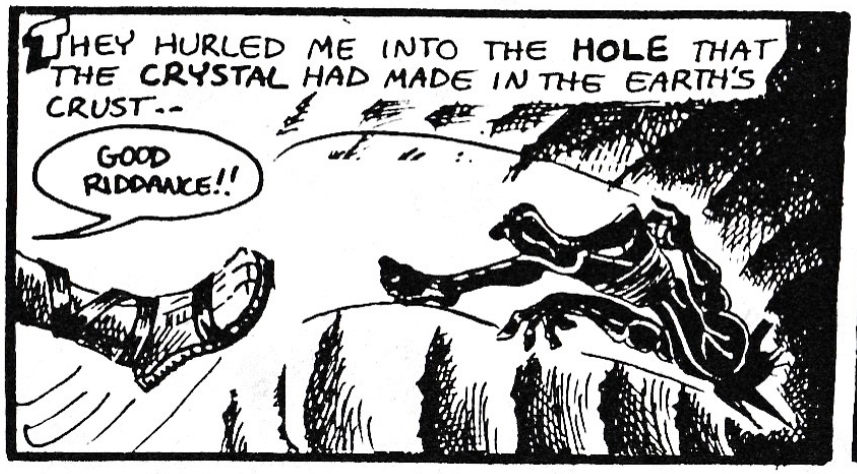
THE CRYSTAL DRILLED A HOLE THROUGH THE EARTH'S CRUST ALL RIGHT-- BUT SOMEHOW, IT UPSET THE TECTONIC PLATES OF THE WORLD'S CONTINENTS...
UH-OH...
RUMBLE...

AND THE RESULTING SHAKE-UP CAUSED AN AWFUL, WORLD-WIDE CATASTROPHE--!
VA-
-OOM

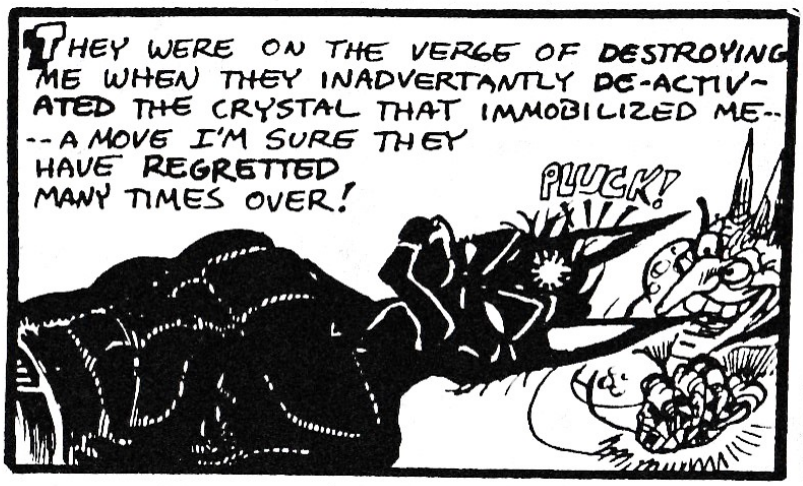
ATLANTIS WOULD EVENTUALLY SINK IN THE GREAT CATACLYSM ...AND THE SURFACE BECAME... VERY INHOSPITABLE!!

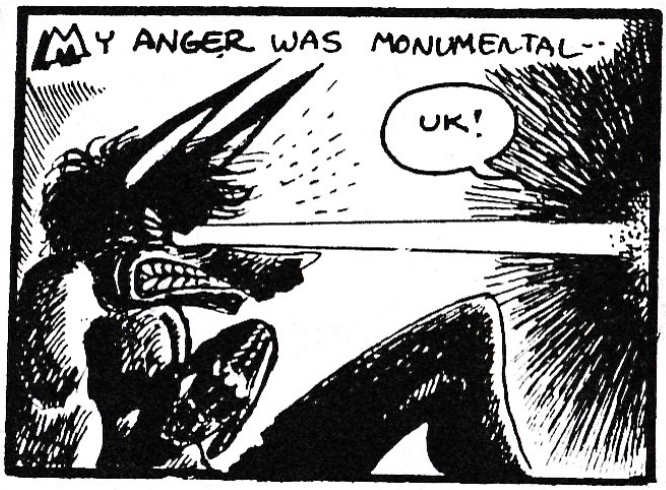
MANY OF THE ATLANTEANS ESCAPED THE DELUGE - FINDING THEIR WAY TO AGHARTA AT THE EARTH'S CORE...

I'M AFRAID I WAS SHAKEN-- I ALLOWED MY GUARD TO DROP - THUS, I WAS BETRAYED-- -INCAPACITATED BY ONE OF MY OWN STASIS-CRYSTALS...


THEY HURLED ME INTO THE HOLE THAT THE CRYSTAL HAD MADE IN THE EARTH'S CRUST--
GOOD RIDDANCE!!

I FELL TO THIS AREA, TO THE CENTER OF GRAVITY, WHERE I WAS DISCOVERED BY THE BOOTS...
OBOY!! A VICTIM!!


THEY WERE ON THE VERGE OF DESTROYING ME WHEN THEY INADVERTANTLY DE-ACTIVATED THE CRYSTAL THAT IMMOBILIZED ME--
--A MOVE I'M SURE THEY HAVE REGRETTED MANY TIMES OVER!
PLUCK!


MY ANGER WAS MONUMENTAL--
UK!

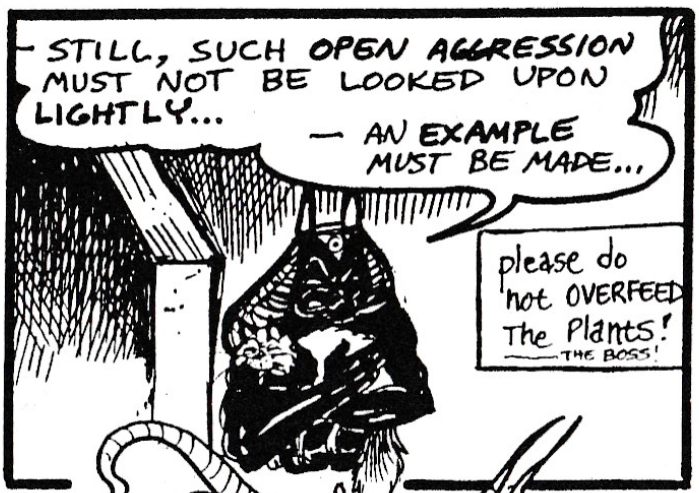
EVENTUALLY, THROUGH FEAR I BECAME THEIR RULER-- ORGANIZING THEM INTO ARMIES--TEACHING THEM THE ART OF CONQUEST--
AND NOW, FINALLY--

THROUGH THE USE OF MY NEW CRYSTAL WEAPONS--I HAVE COME CLOSER THAN EVER TO REALIZING MY DREAMS...
ESPECIALLY ONE DREAM...

THE DREAM I'VE HAD EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD--!
FOOOOOOOSH

SO YOU SEE, MR. KITTY... YOU MUST NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF FEAR--
IT CAN BE A FANTASTIC WEAPON--!
PRRRR PRRRR

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, THOSE WHO, THOUGH THEY FEAR ME, ARE STILL ABLE TO DEFY ME -- OPENLY OPPOSE ME -- EVEN, ASTONISHINGLY, ACT AGAINST ME --!
--EVEN THOUGH THEIR ATTEMPTS MIGHT BE LAUGHABLE -- SUCH AS YOURS, MR. KITTY--


STILL, SUCH OPEN AGGRESSION MUST NOT BE LOOKED UPON LIGHTLY...
— AN EXAMPLE MUST BE MADE...
please do not OVERFEED The Plants! —THE BOSS!

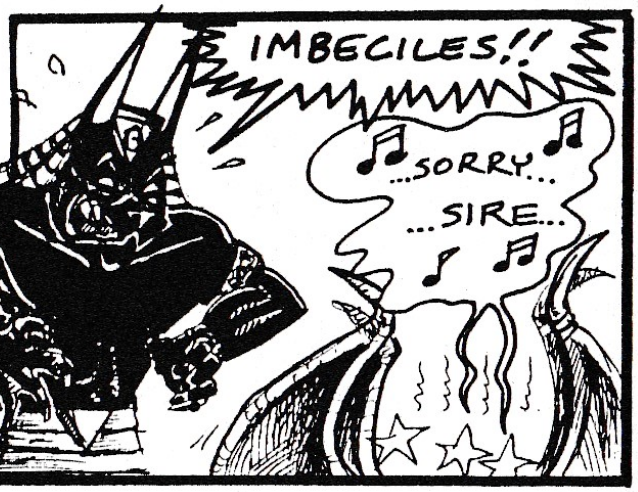
--AND A GOOD LEADER HAS TO BE CONSISTENT--!
— HERE, CLEO-- A TIDBIT.!!

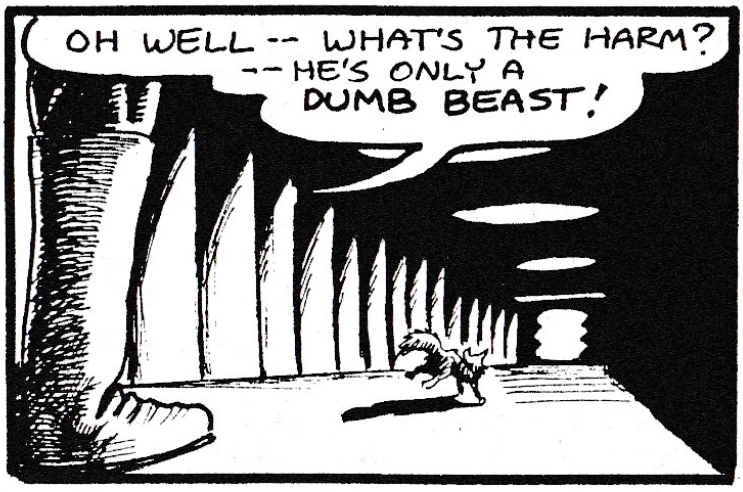
MEOWLL!
OW!
RIP!
SCRATCH!

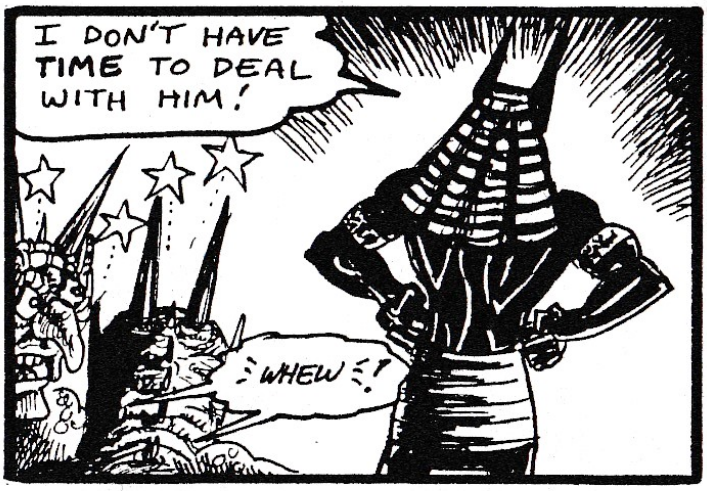
@☆!!#?☆✗ ⚡!!
CLEOPATRA

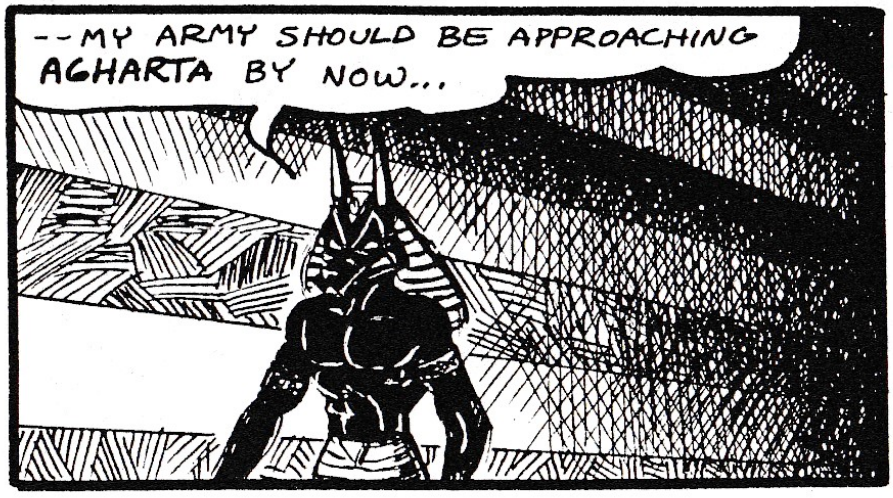
STOP THAT CREATURE!!!
HHHHHHHH!!

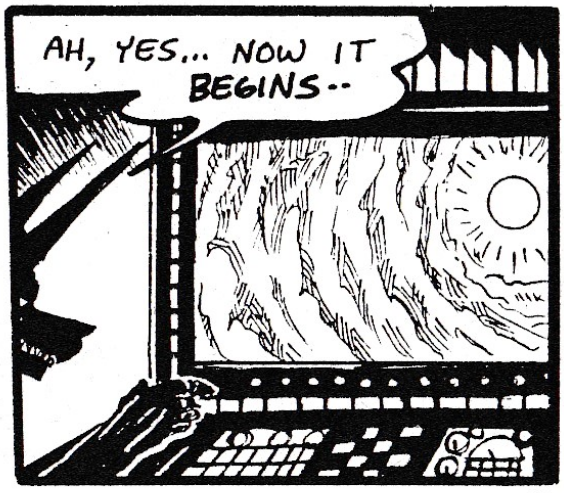
KLOW!


IMBECILES!!
...SORRY...
...SIRE...

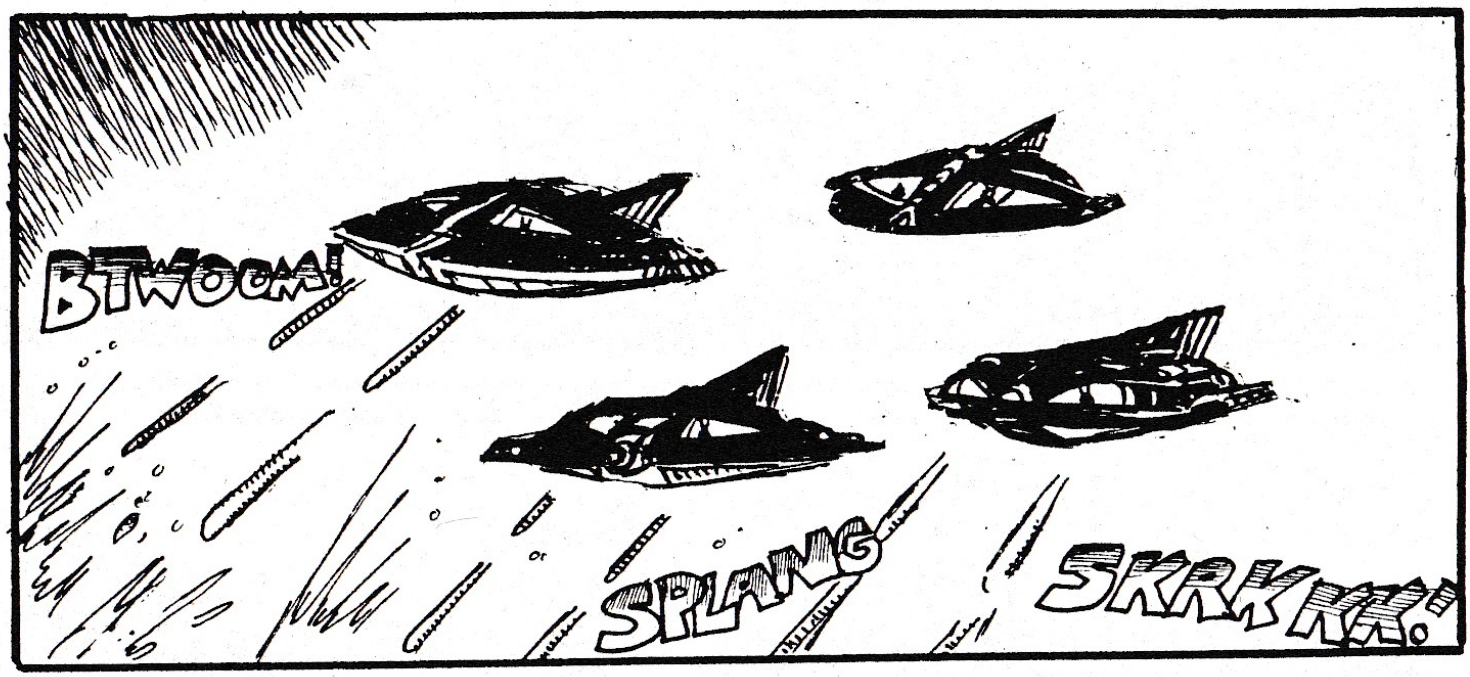

OH WELL -- WHAT'S THE HARM? -- HE'S ONLY A DUMB BEAST!

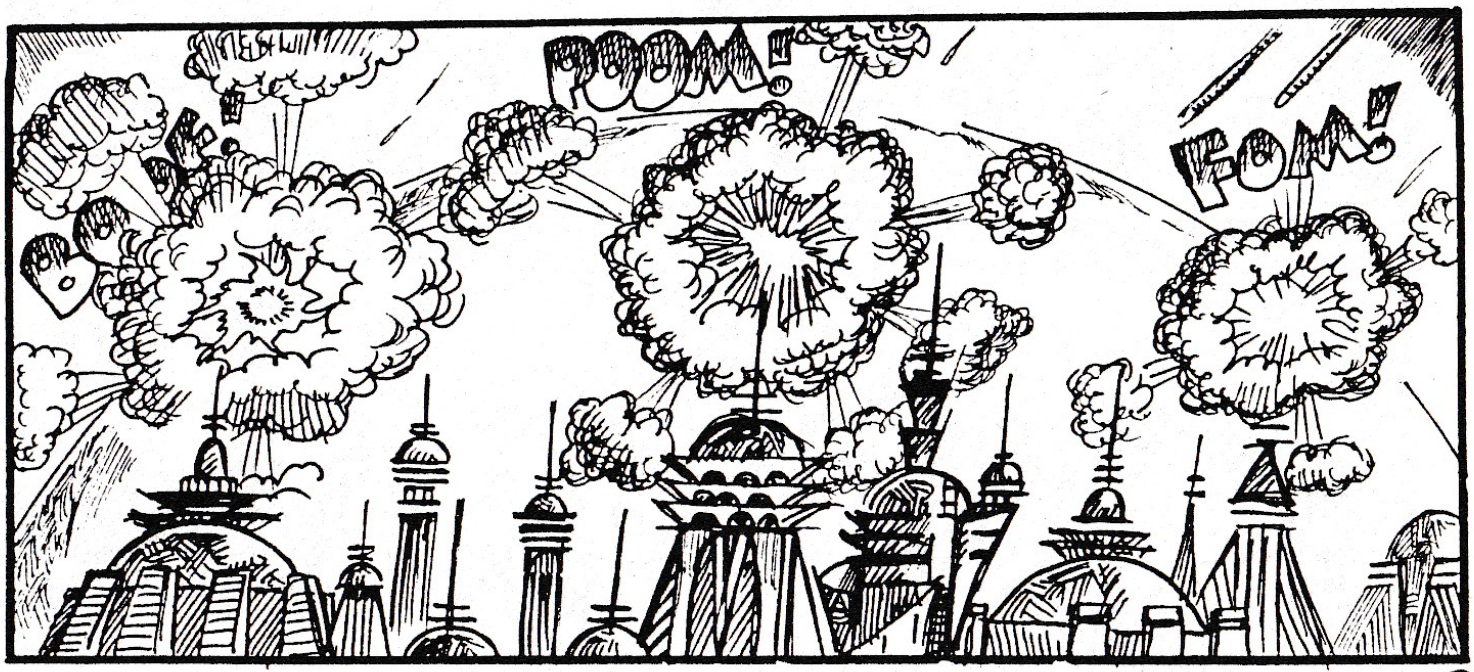

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH HIM!
WHEW!


--MY ARMY SHOULD BE APPROACHING AGHARTA BY NOW...


AH, YES... NOW IT BEGINS--

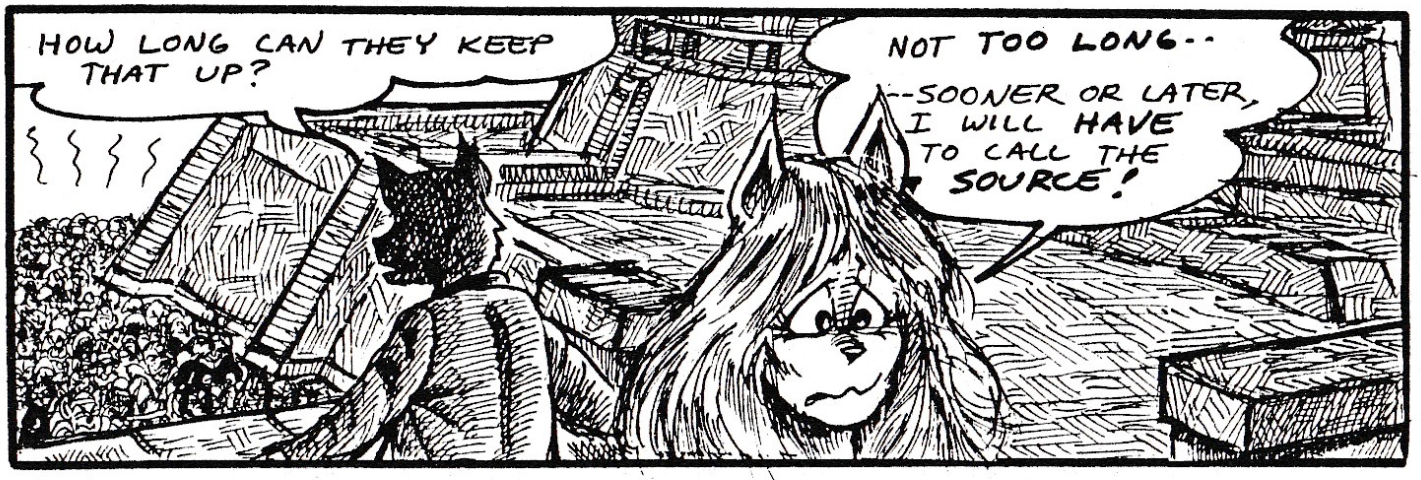
HERE THEY COME...


BTWOGM!
SPLANG
SKRKKK!


POOM!
FOM!

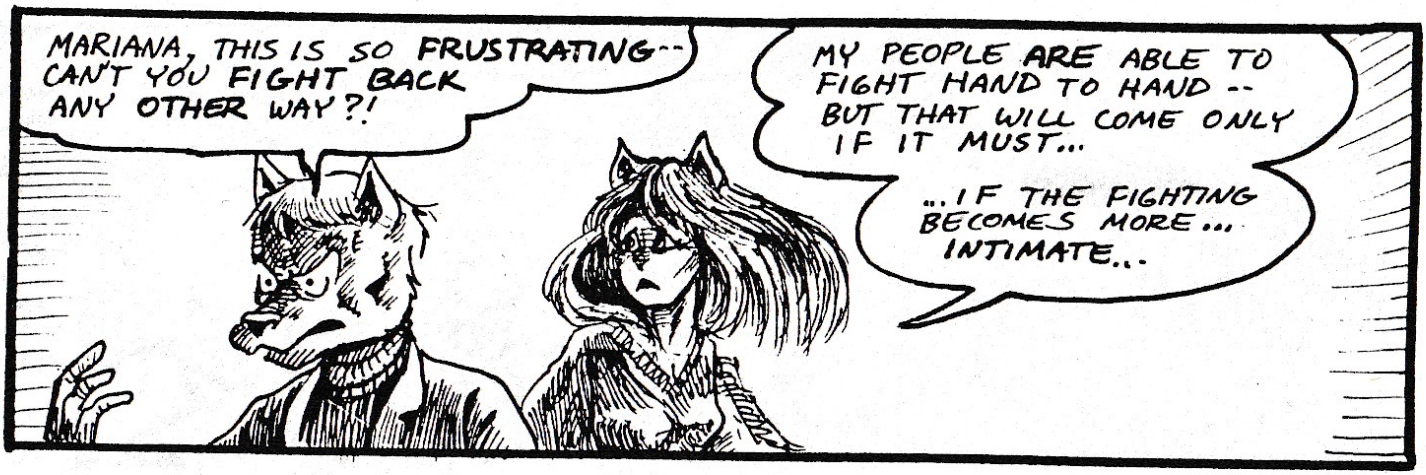
WHAT'S PROTECTING THE CITY? NONE OF THEIR BLASTS SEEM ABLE TO TOUCH IT...
FOOM!
POOM!
MY PEOPLE'S MINDS --JOINED IN THOUGHT-- HAVE CREATED A PROTECTIVE SHIELD OVER US...

--BUT IT REQUIRES INTENSE CONCENTRATION--!

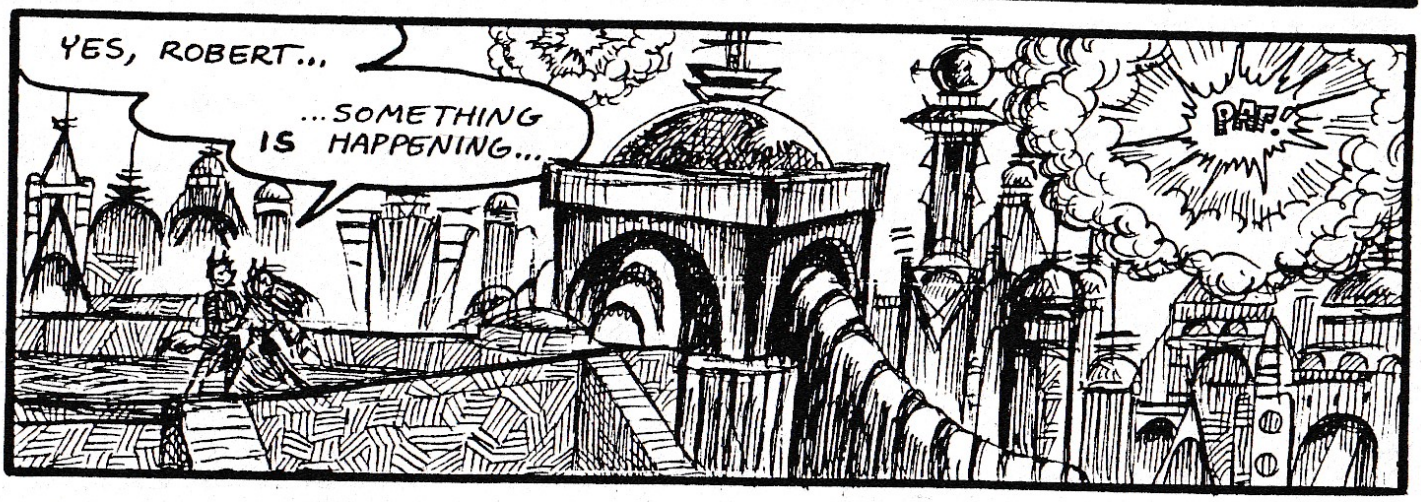

HOW LONG CAN THEY KEEP THAT UP?
NOT TOO LONG--
--SOONER OR LATER, I WILL HAVE TO CALL THE SOURCE!

--BUT I'D LIKE TO PUT THAT OFF FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...
-DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU DO?

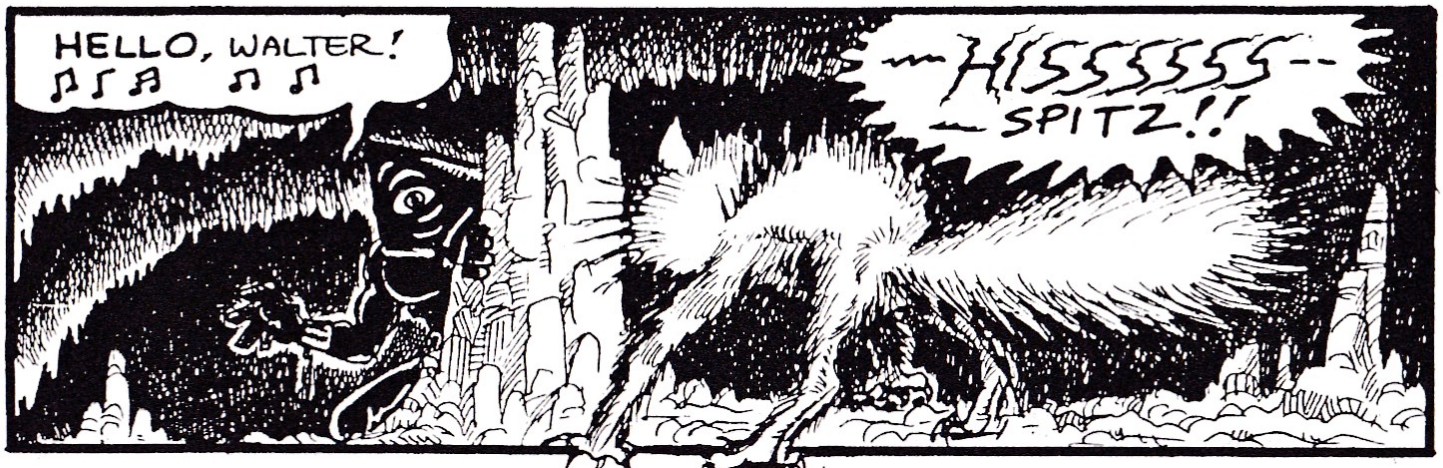
VAGUELY, YES...
I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

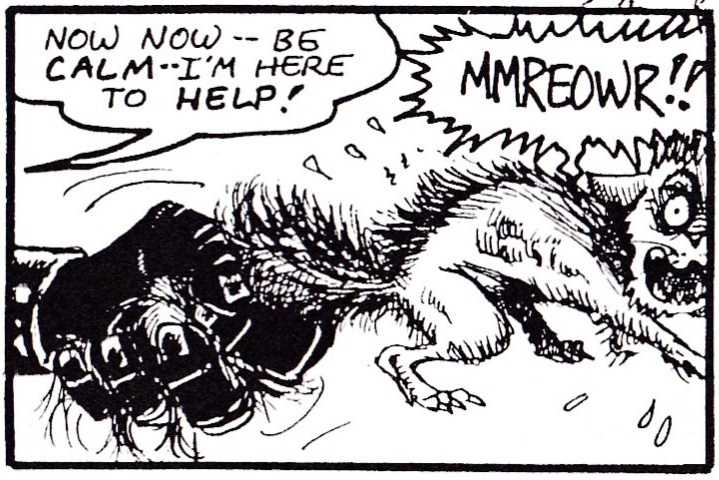

MARIANA, THIS IS SO FRUSTRATING-- CAN'T YOU FIGHT BACK ANY OTHER WAY?!
MY PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO FIGHT HAND TO HAND -- BUT THAT WILL COME ONLY IF IT MUST...
...IF THE FIGHTING BECOMES MORE... INTIMATE...

FOR NOW... FOR NOW, WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN--
YOU SEEM TO BE WAITING FOR SOMETHING... SPECIAL TO HAPPEN...
YES...


YES, ROBERT...
...SOMETHING IS HAPPENING...
PHF!

MEANWHILE...
MEOWLLL

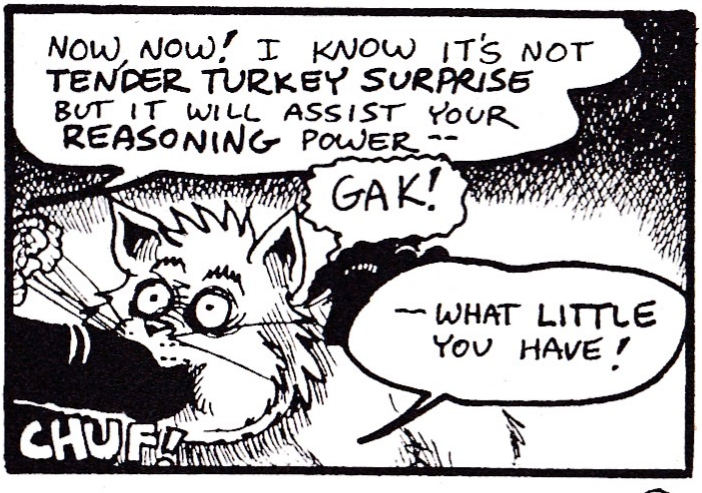

HELLO, WALTER!
HISSSSSSS--
SPITZ!!


NOW NOW -- BE CALM--I'M HERE TO HELP!
MMREOWR!!

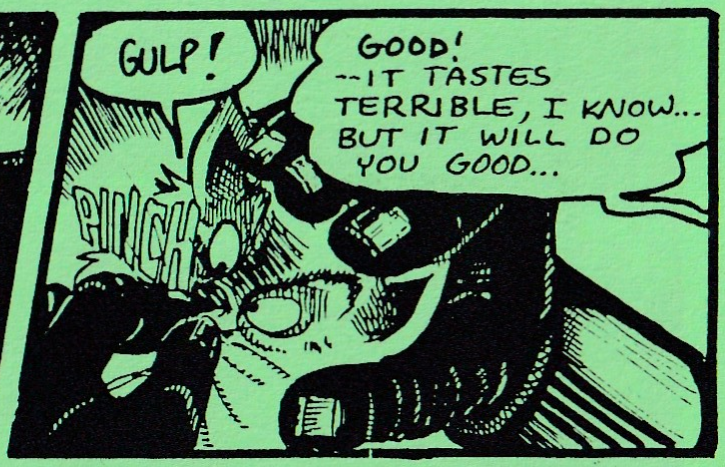
DON'T BE AFRAID --!
I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A CERTAIN PLACE...
HHHH HHHH!

--THIS IS A CAVERN THAT MAY HELP US, WALTER...
...BECAUSE OF THE FUNGI THAT GROW HERE...

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
EC!

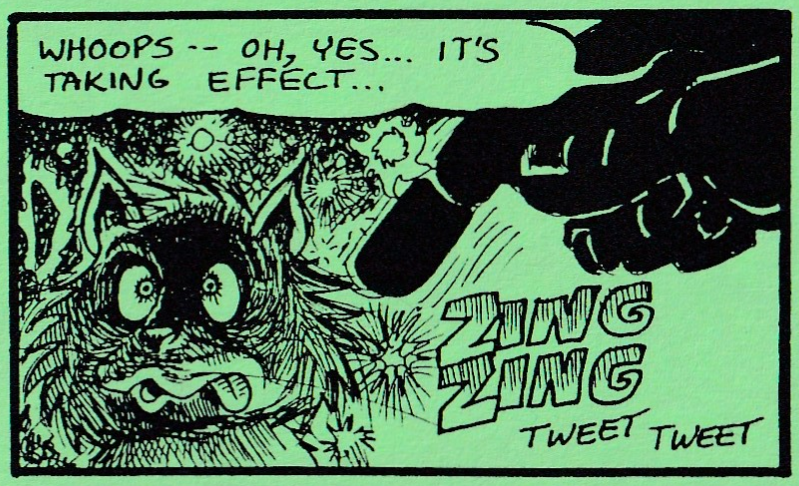

NOW, NOW! I KNOW IT'S NOT TENDER TURKEY SURPRISE BUT IT WILL ASSIST YOUR REASONING POWER --
GAK!
--WHAT LITTLE YOU HAVE!
CHUF!!

ACK! ECK!
COUGH! COUGH! CHOKE!!
NOW SWALLOW, KITTY...

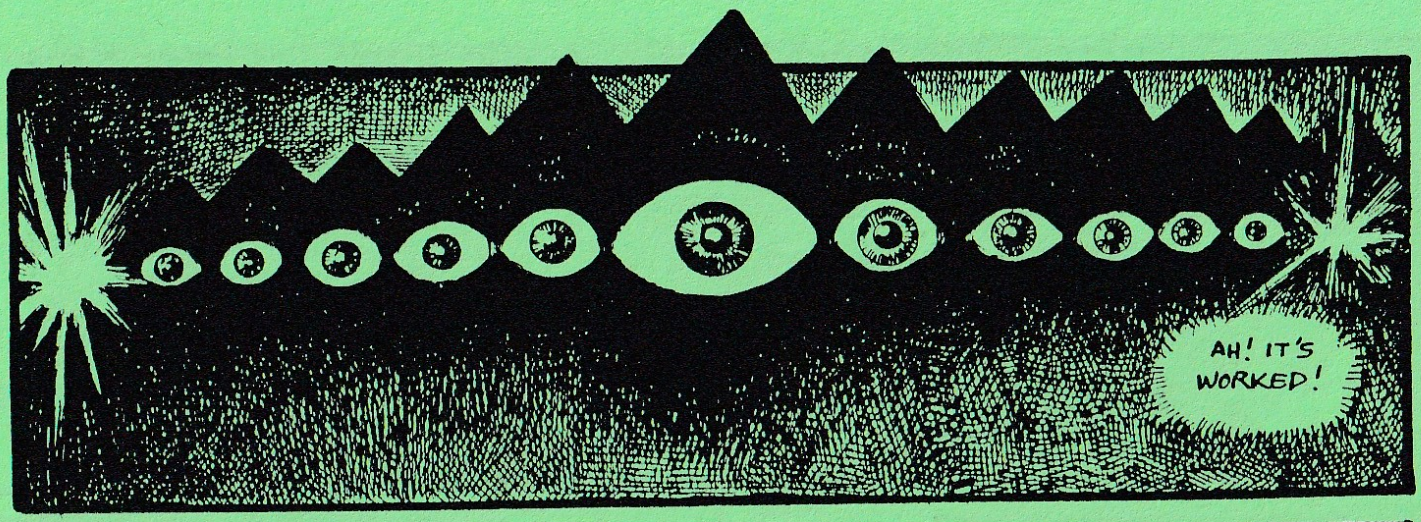

GULP!
PINCH
GOOD! --IT TASTES TERRIBLE, I KNOW... BUT IT WILL DO YOU GOOD...

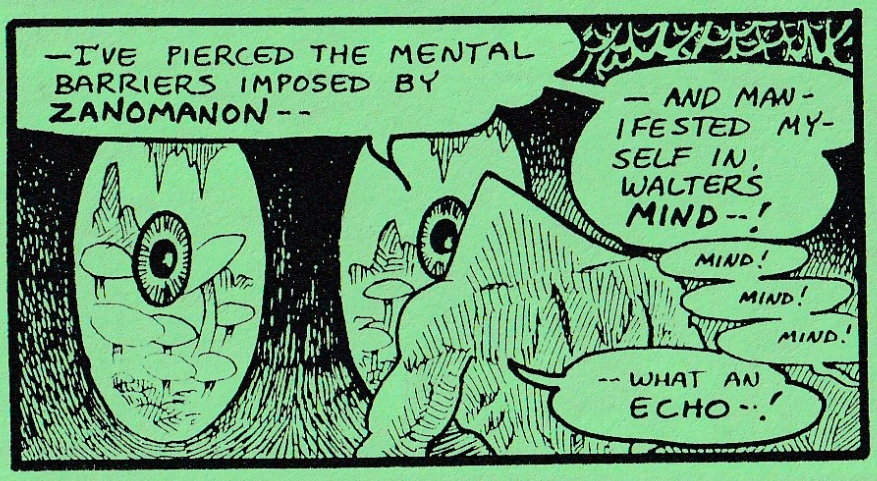
NOW WE WAIT-
ACK! HAK! HAK! -AK! -AK ARGH!
-HAWK!

MINUTES LATER...
FEELING STRANGE, WALTER?
...YOU SHOULD--

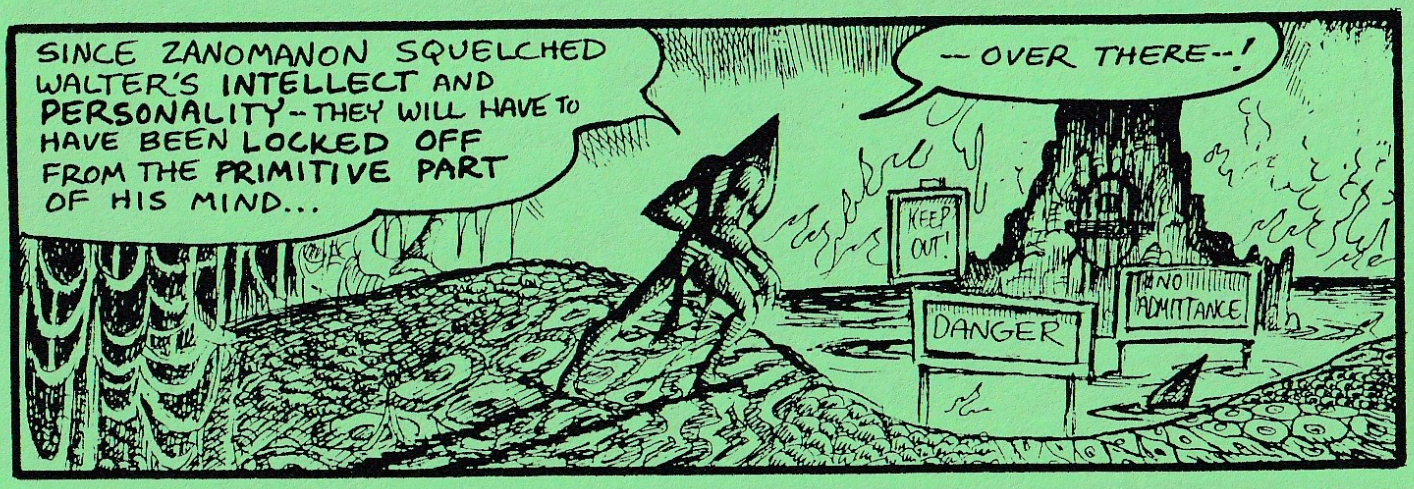

WHOOPS -- OH, YES... IT'S TAKING EFFECT...
ZING ZING
TWEET TWEET

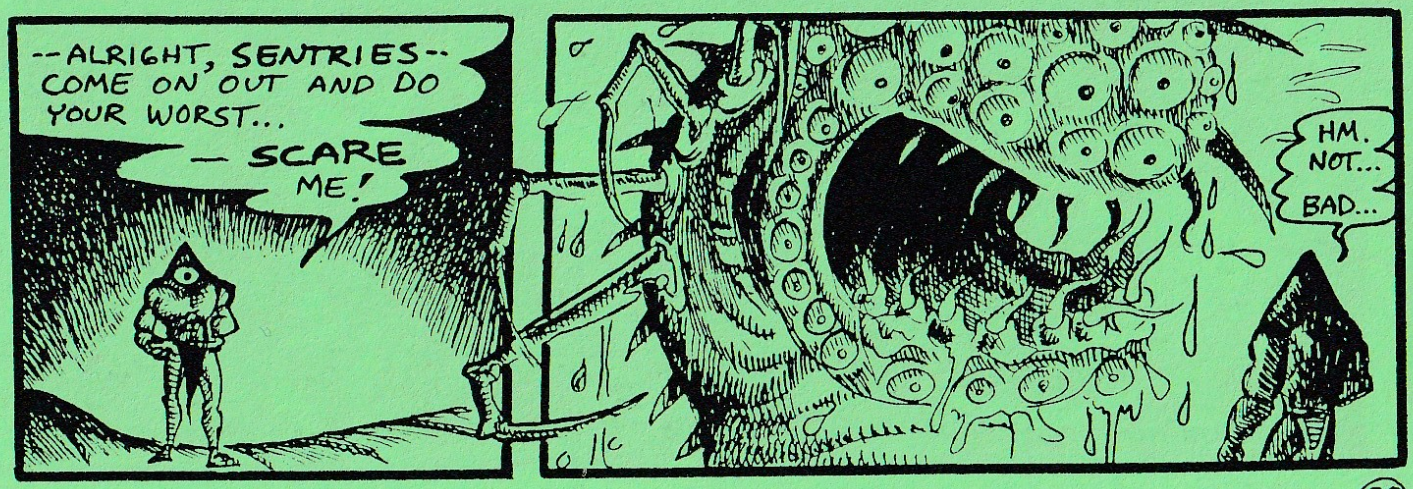
NOW, LOOK AT ME, WALTER-- --LOOK AT MY EYE--
NG!

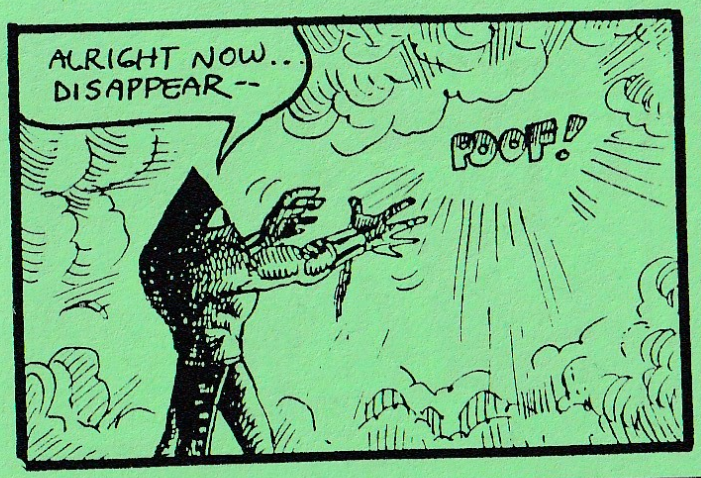

AH! IT'S WORKED!


—I'VE PIERCED THE MENTAL BARRIERS IMPOSED BY ZANOMANON--
— AND MANIFESTED MYSELF IN WALTER'S MIND--!
MIND!
MIND!
MIND!
--WHAT AN ECHO--!

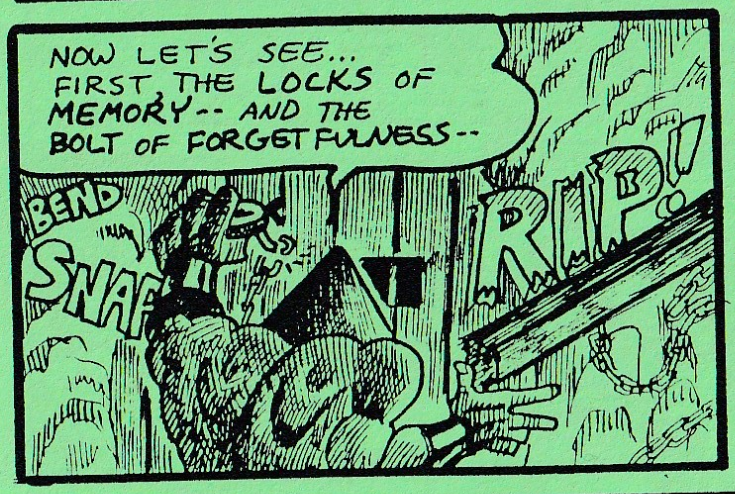
IT CERTAINLY IS SMALL AND CRAMPED IN HERE...
— COBWEBS — UGH!
— A TYPICAL ZANOMANON TOUCH--!

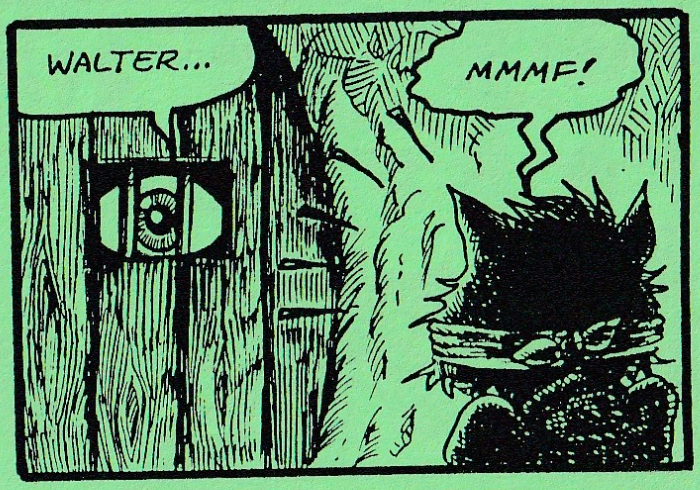

SINCE ZANOMANON SQUELCHED WALTER'S INTELLECT AND PERSONALITY - THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE BEEN LOCKED OFF FROM THE PRIMITIVE PART OF HIS MIND...
--OVER THERE--!
KEEP OUT!
DANGER
NO ADMITTANCE


--ALRIGHT, SENTRIES-- COME ON OUT AND DO YOUR WORST...
— SCARE ME!
HM. NOT... BAD...


ALRIGHT NOW... DISAPPEAR--
POOF!

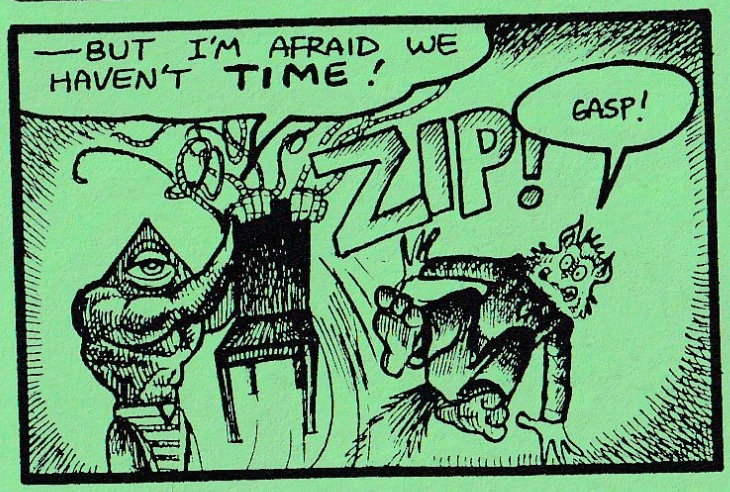
KEEP OUT

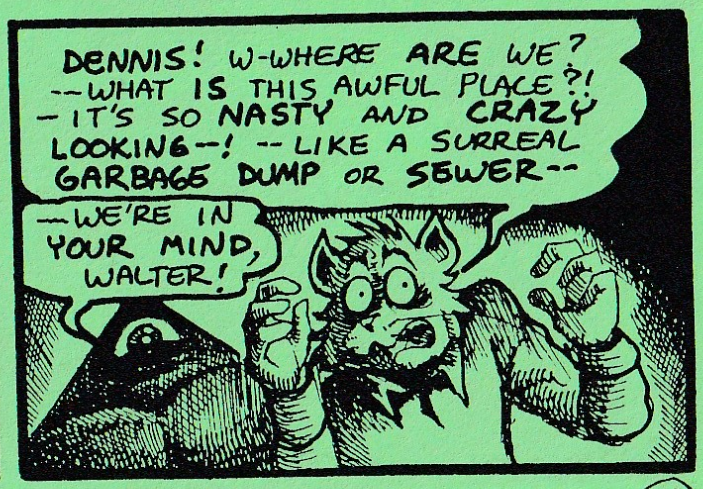

NOW LET'S SEE... FIRST THE LOCKS OF MEMORY-- AND THE BOLT OF FORGETFULNESS--
BEND
SNAP
RIP!

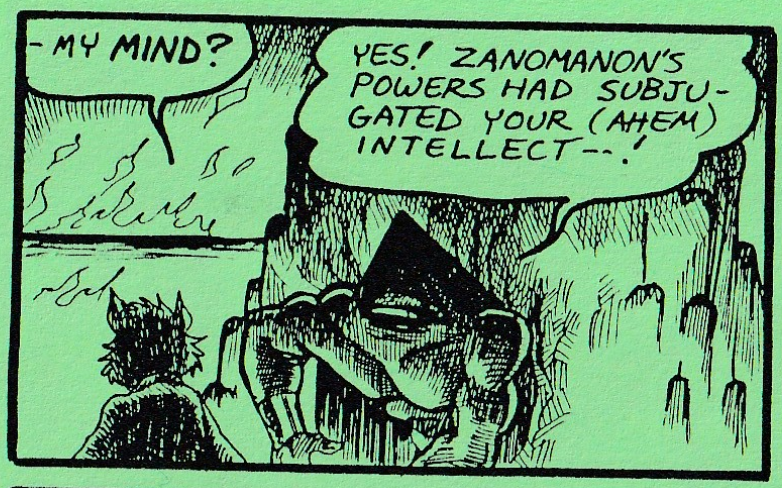

WALTER...
MMMF!

YES, YES, I KNOW... CHAINED BY FETTERS OF IGNORANCE AND FEAR...
MMMMF!!

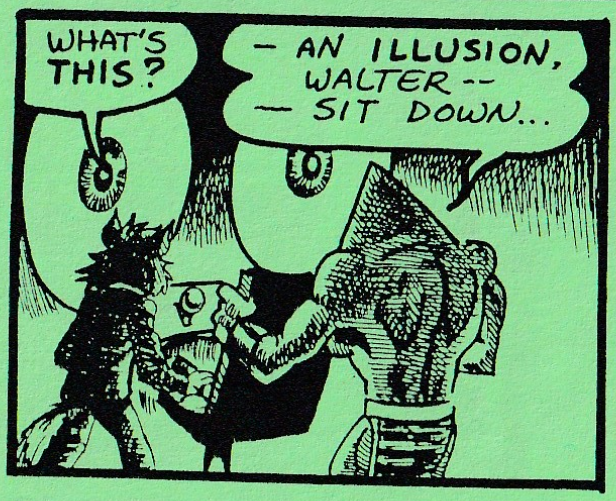
PERHAPS I OUGHT TO MAKE YOU FREE YOURSELF--
—YOU'D BE A BETTER PERSON FOR IT--

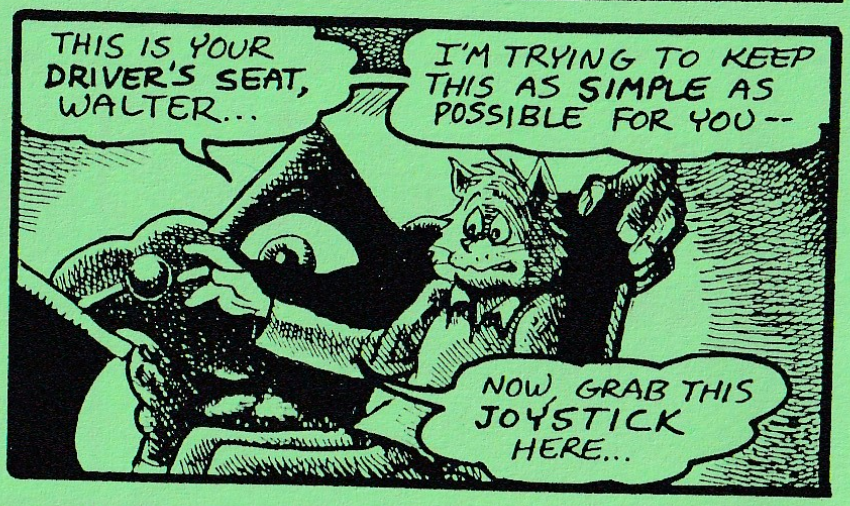

—BUT I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T TIME!
ZIP!
GASP!


DENNIS! W-WHERE ARE WE? --WHAT IS THIS AWFUL PLACE?! -IT'S SO NASTY AND CRAZY LOOKING--! --LIKE A SURREAL GARBAGE DUMP OR SEWER--
—WE'RE IN YOUR MIND, WALTER!

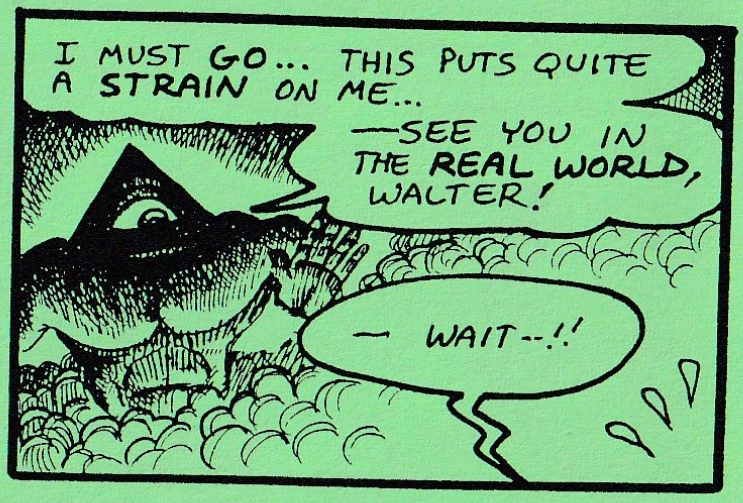

- MY MIND?
YES! ZANOMANON'S POWERS HAD SUBJUGATED YOUR (AHEM) INTELLECT--!

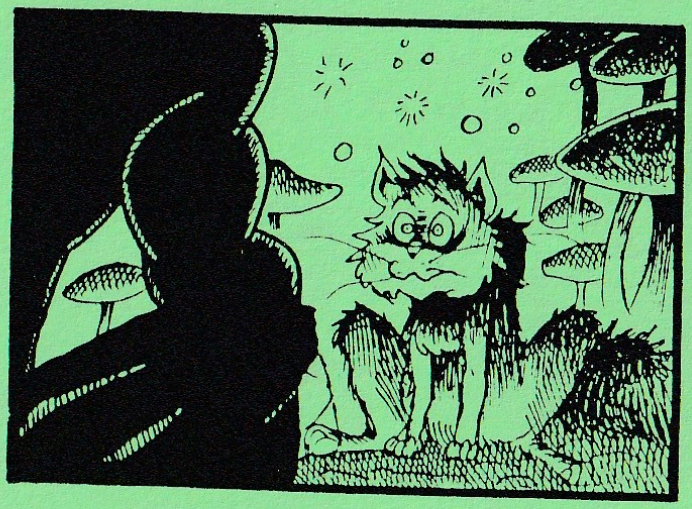
NOW, COME OVER HERE...

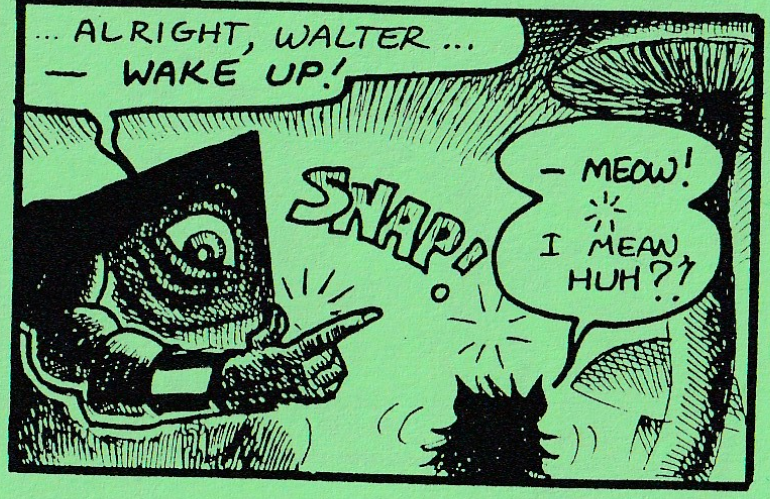

WHAT'S THIS?
- AN ILLUSION, WALTER -- — SIT DOWN...

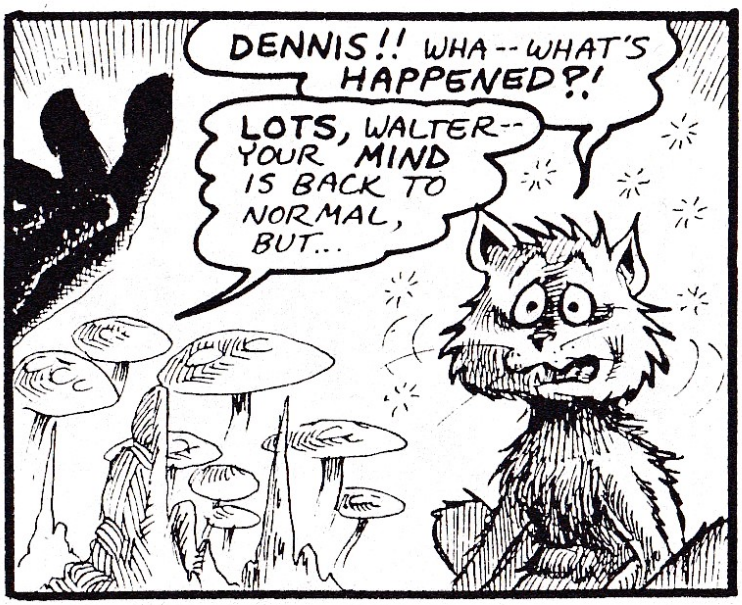

THIS IS YOUR DRIVER'S SEAT, WALTER...
I'M TRYING TO KEEP THIS AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE FOR YOU --
NOW, GRAB THIS JOYSTICK HERE...

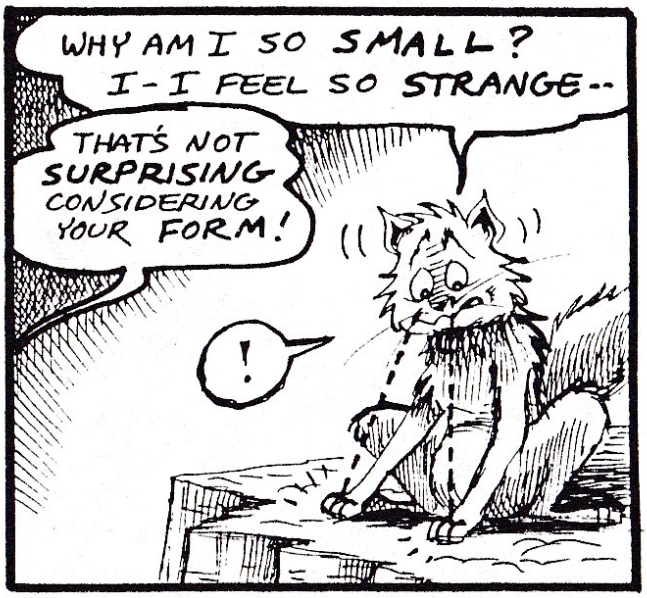
YOU'RE FREE MENTALLY, NOW, WALTER...
STAY IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT!
YOUR PROCESSES WILL BE OPERATING AGAIN SHORTLY!
- BUT--!

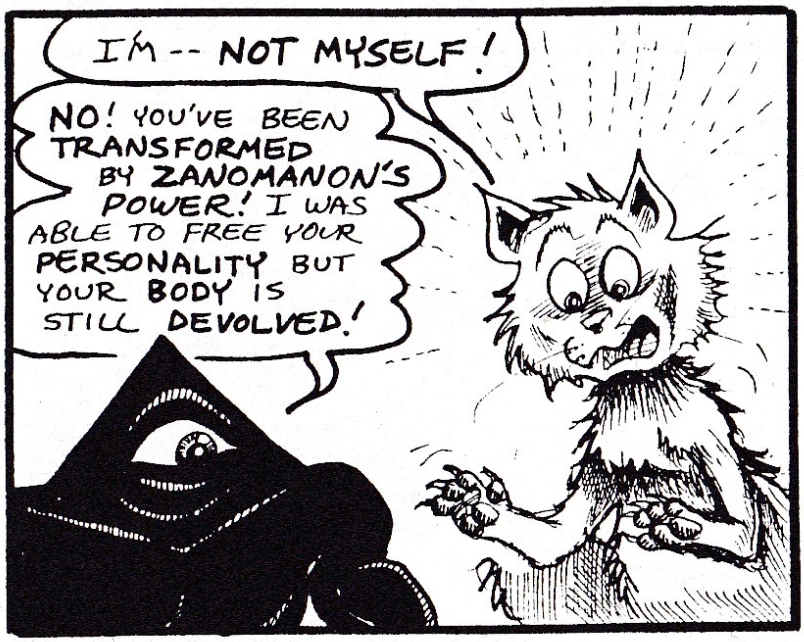

I MUST GO... THIS PUTS QUITE A STRAIN ON ME...
—SEE YOU IN THE REAL WORLD, WALTER!
— WAIT--!!



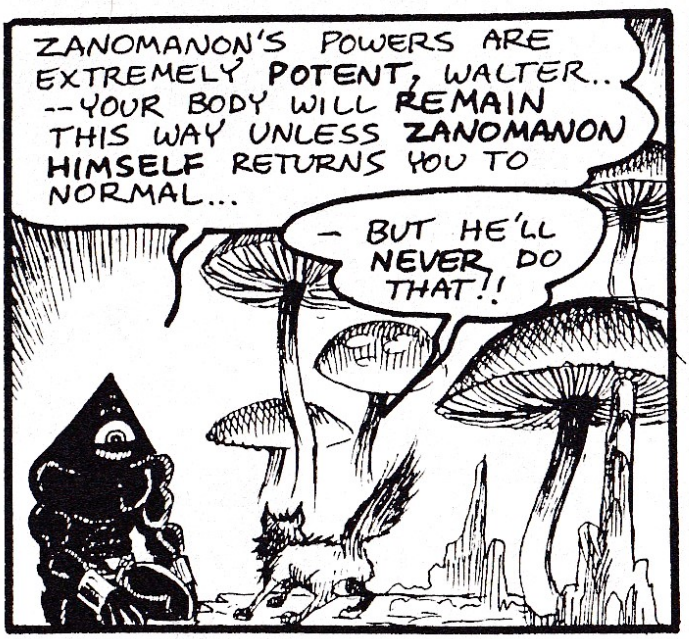

... ALRIGHT, WALTER... — WAKE UP!
SNAP!
- MEOW! I MEAN, HUH??


DENNIS!! WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
LOTS, WALTER-- YOUR MIND IS BACK TO NORMAL, BUT...

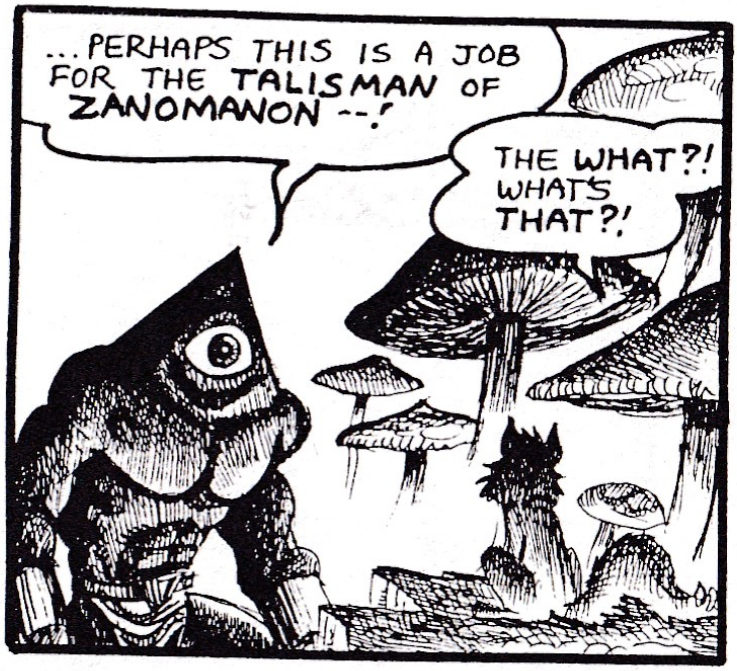

WHY AM I SO SMALL? I-I FEEL SO STRANGE--
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING CONSIDERING YOUR FORM!
!


I'M -- NOT MYSELF!
NO! YOU'VE BEEN TRANSFORMED BY ZANOMANON'S POWER! I WAS ABLE TO FREE YOUR PERSONALITY BUT YOUR BODY IS STILL DEVOLVED!

WHAT'LL I DO?! I CAN'T GO THROUGH LIFE LIKE THIS --
I'M A FREAK!!


ZANOMANON'S POWERS ARE EXTREMELY POTENT, WALTER.. --YOUR BODY WILL REMAIN THIS WAY UNLESS ZANOMANON HIMSELF RETURNS YOU TO NORMAL...
- BUT HE'LL NEVER DO THAT!!

NO... THAT'S TRUE...
ISN'T THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO CHANGE ME BACK?!
WELL...
W..E..L..L..L...

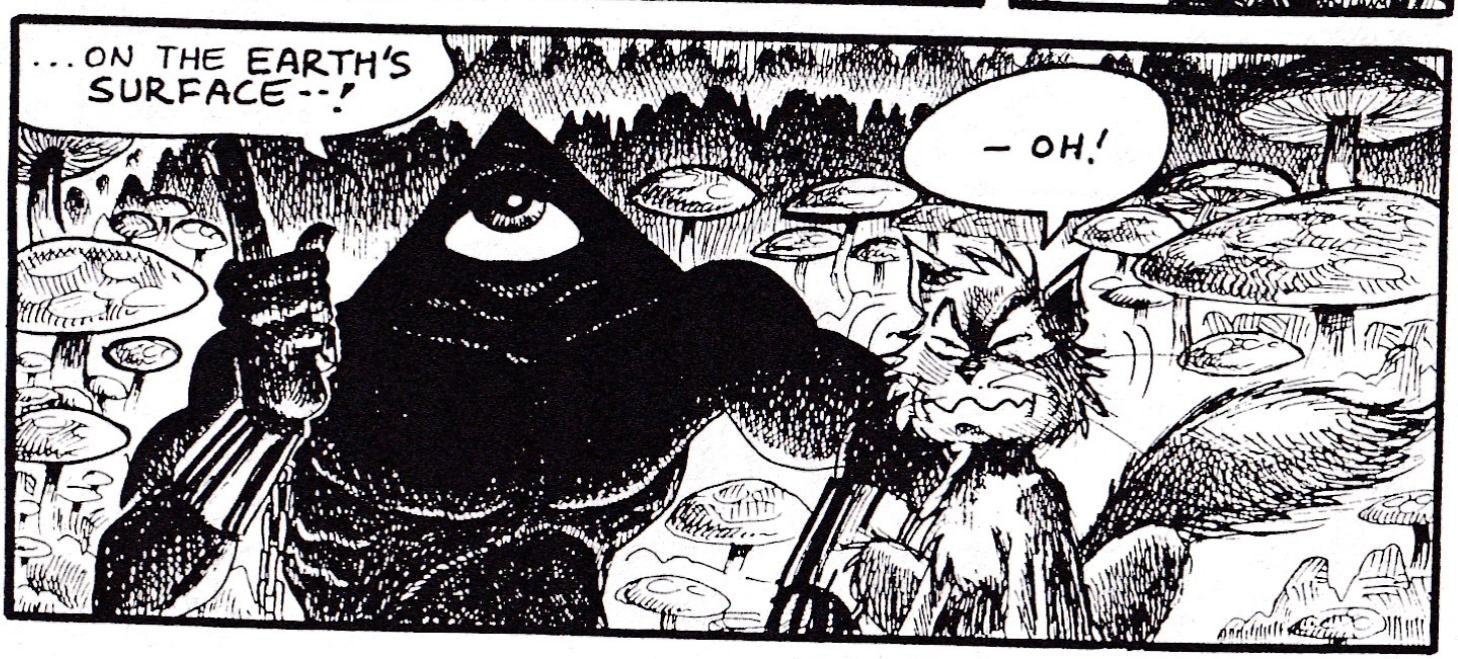

...PERHAPS THIS IS A JOB FOR THE TALISMAN OF ZANOMANON --!
THE WHAT?! WHAT'S THAT?!

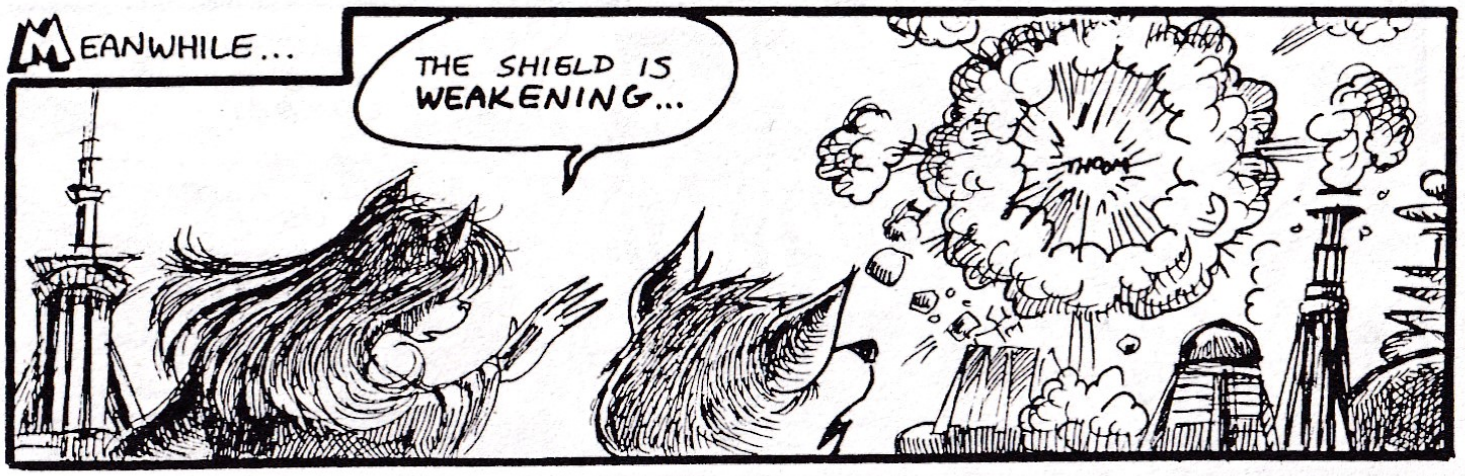
...AN... OBJECT... ENDOWED WITH SPECIAL PROPERTIES...

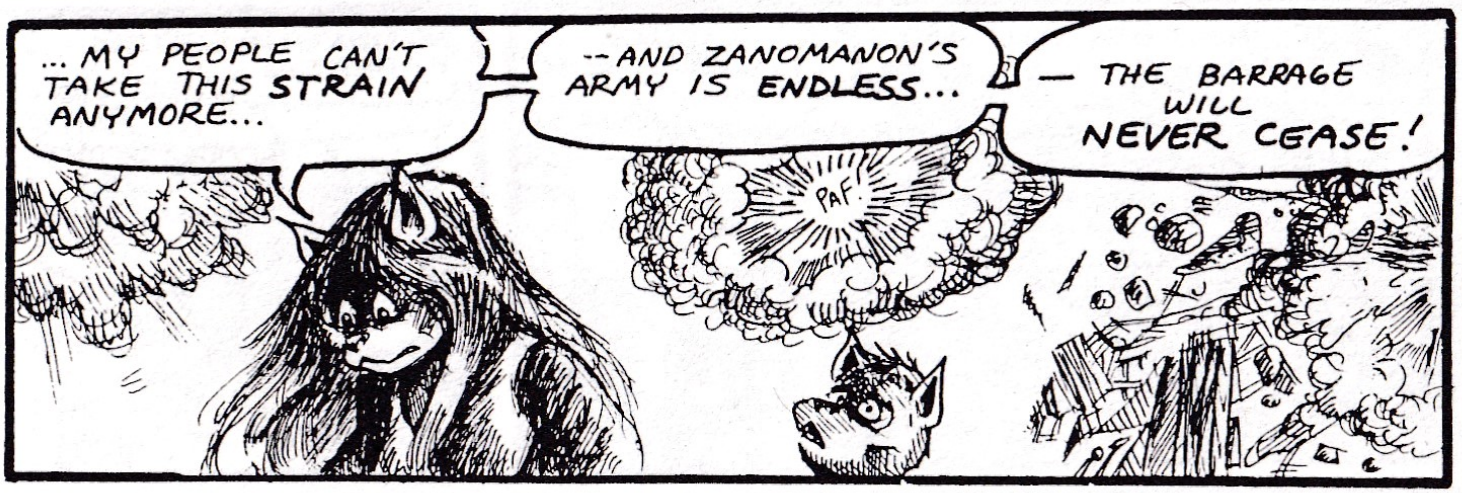
AND THAT'LL HELP ME?
IT WOULD -- BUT FOR ONE THING...

WHAT'S THAT?
ITS LOCATION -- IT WOULD TAKE MUCH EFFORT TO GET TO IT...
- WHY?

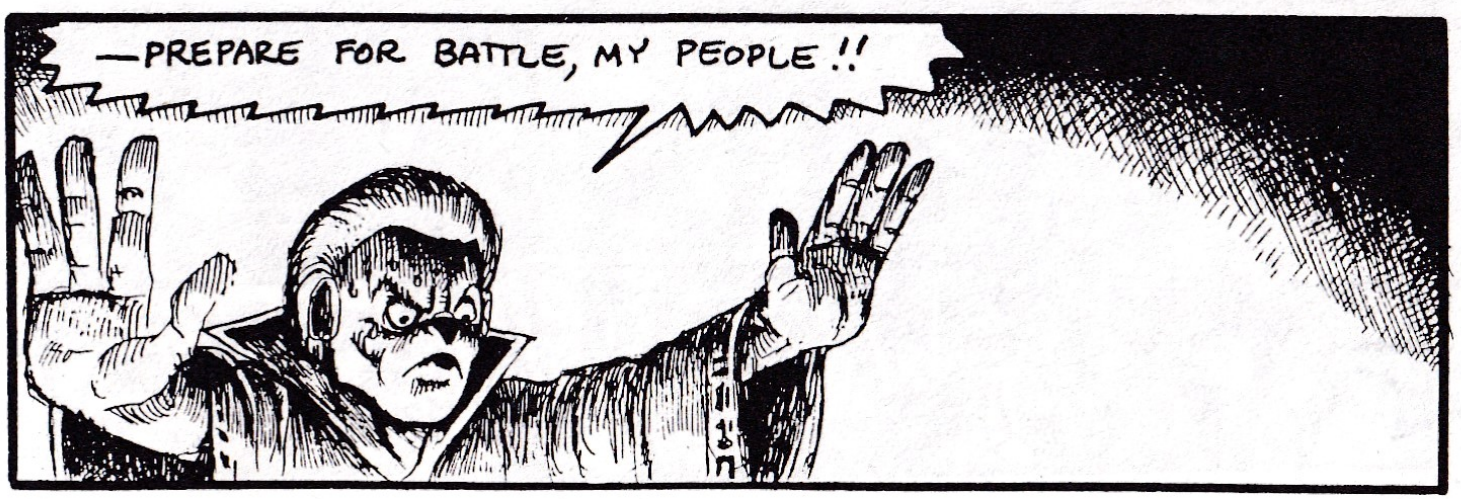
IT'S IN A MUSEUM, WALTER...


...ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE --!
- OH!


MEANWHILE...
THE SHIELD IS WEAKENING...
THOOM

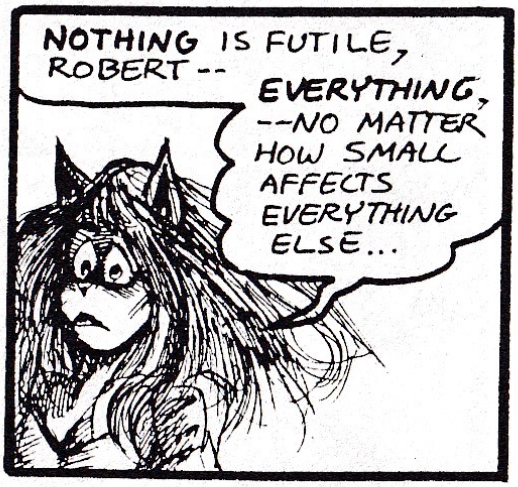

... MY PEOPLE CAN'T TAKE THIS STRAIN ANYMORE...
--AND ZANOMANON'S ARMY IS ENDLESS...
— THE BARRAGE WILL NEVER CEASE!
PAF!

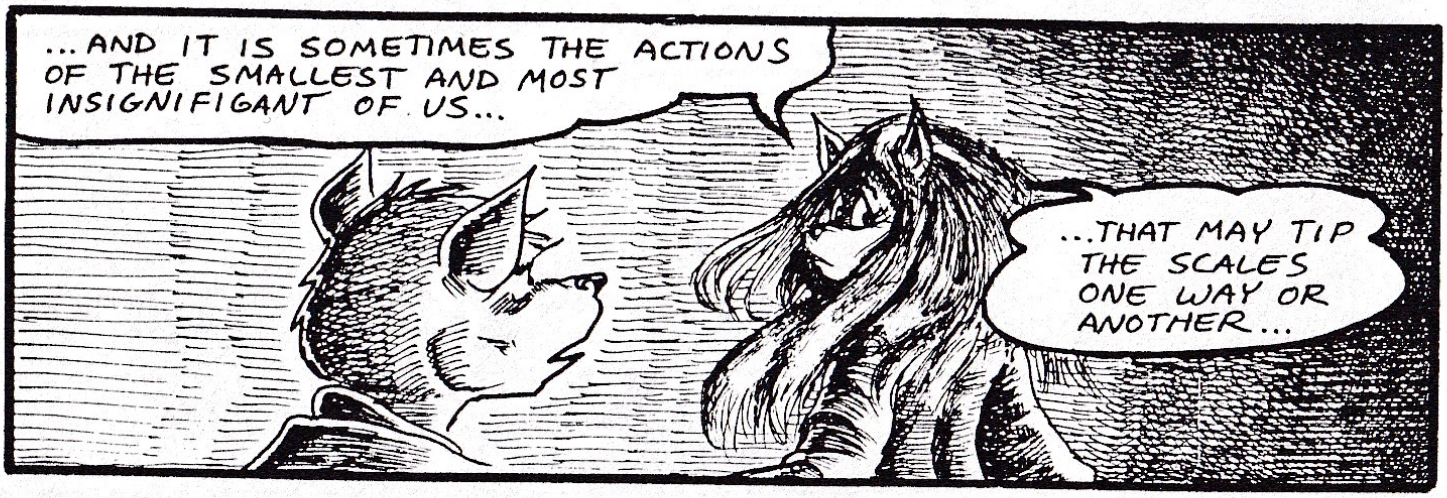
THE TIME HAS COME...
I MUST SUMMON THE SOURCE!
BUT FIRST... —ARIAN!

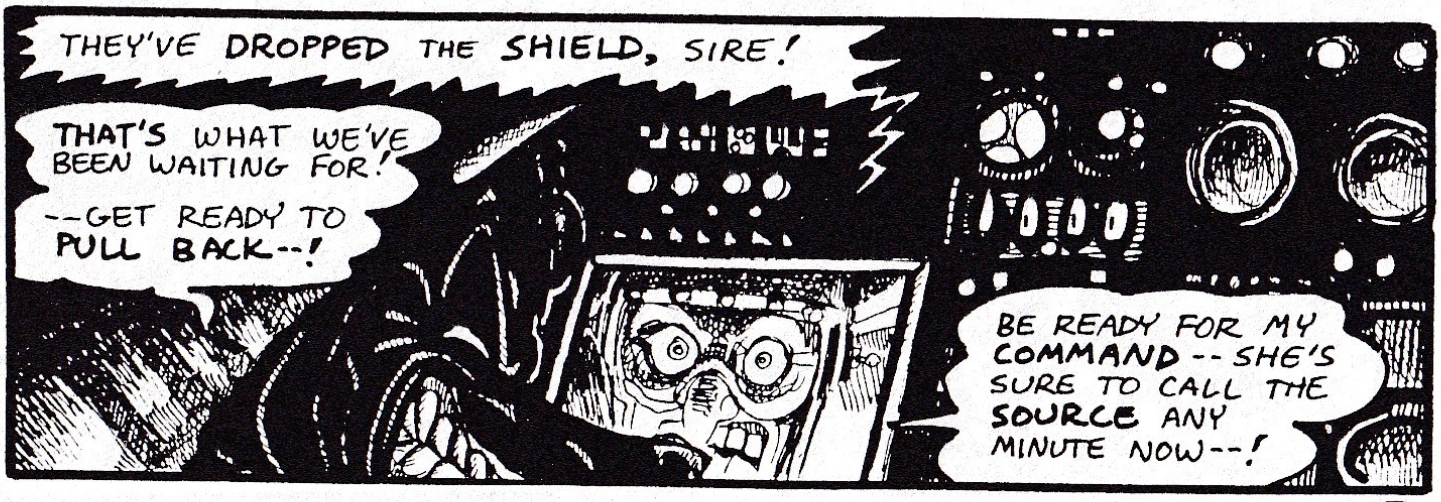

—PREPARE FOR BATTLE, MY PEOPLE!!

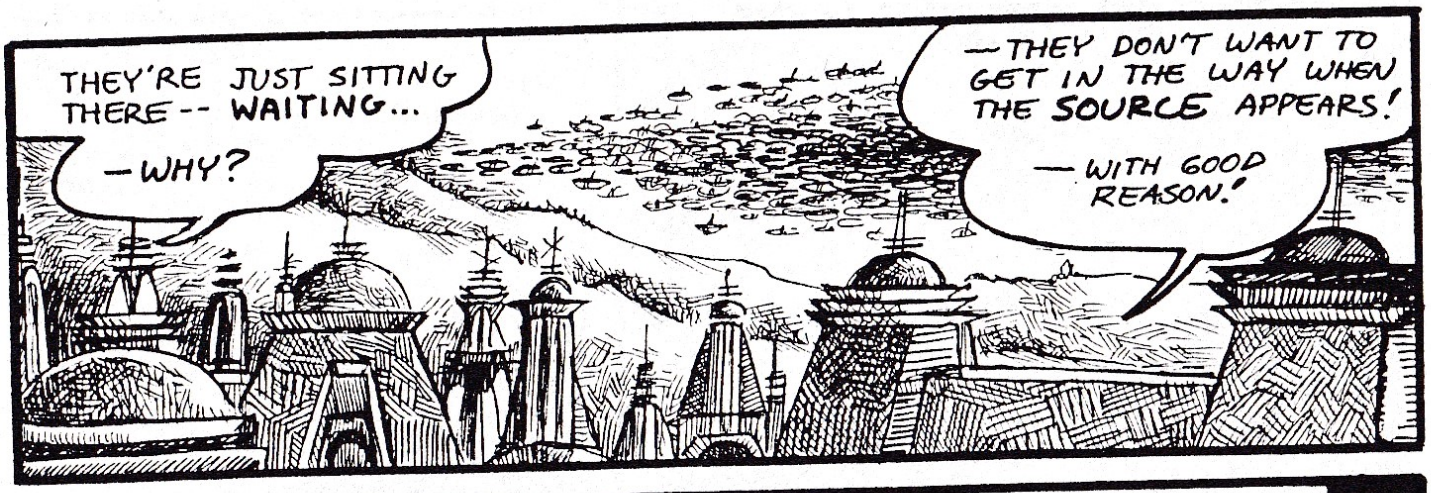
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY ARE PREPARING FOR HAND TO HAND COMBAT--
--SOMETHING ALMOST TOTALLY ALIEN TO US--!

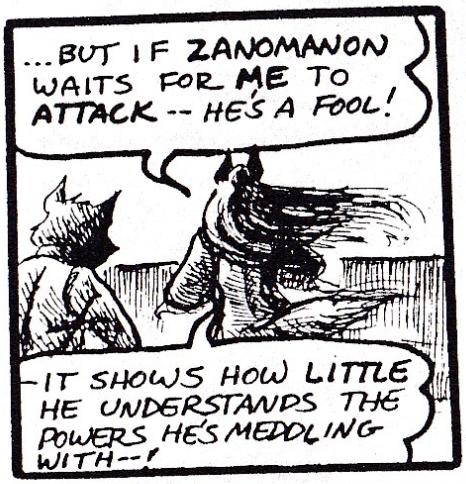
...BUT... HOW CAN THAT HELP? IF ZANOMANON'S SOLDIERS ARE COUNTLESS -- THEY'LL BE THROWING THEIR LIVES AWAY--!
-- IT'S JUST FUTILE!


NOTHING IS FUTILE, ROBERT--
EVERYTHING, --NO MATTER HOW SMALL AFFECTS EVERYTHING ELSE...

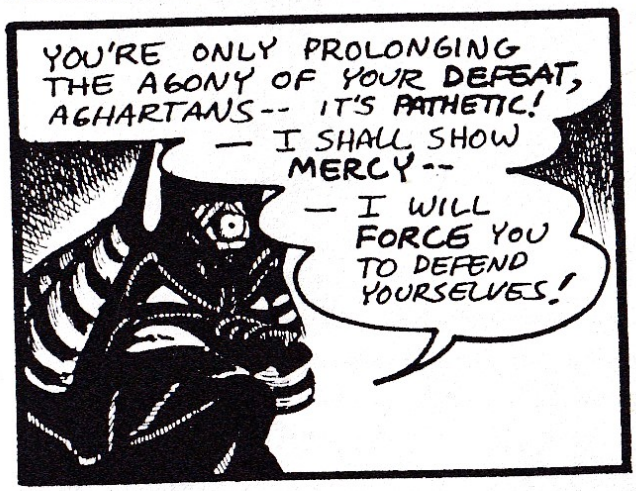

...AND IT IS SOMETIMES THE ACTIONS OF THE SMALLEST AND MOST INSIGNIFIGANT OF US...
...THAT MAY TIP THE SCALES ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...


THEY'VE DROPPED THE SHIELD, SIRE!
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
--GET READY TO PULL BACK--!
BE READY FOR MY COMMAND -- SHE'S SURE TO CALL THE SOURCE ANY MINUTE NOW--!


THEY'RE JUST SITTING THERE -- WAITING...
—WHY?
—THEY DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY WHEN THE SOURCE APPEARS!
—WITH GOOD REASON!

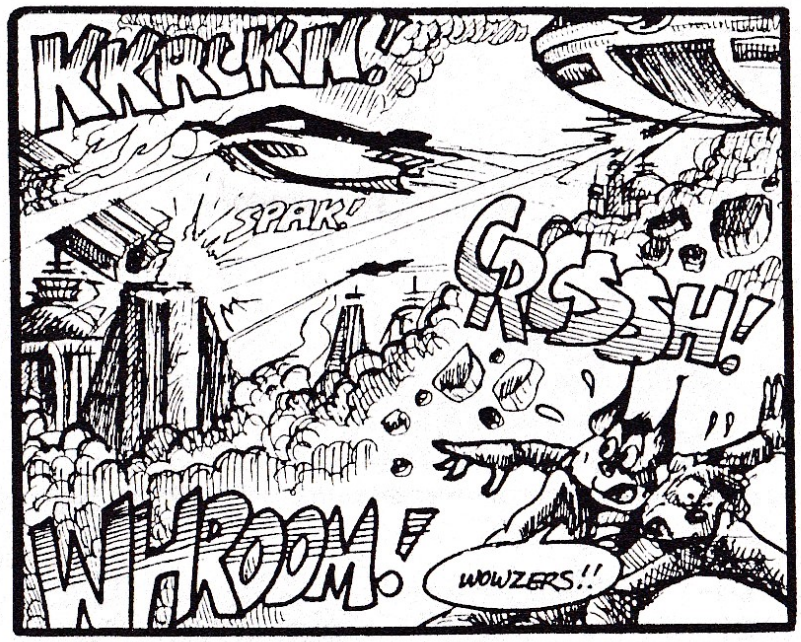

...BUT IF ZANOMANON WAITS FOR ME TO ATTACK -- HE'S A FOOL!
—IT SHOWS HOW LITTLE HE UNDERSTANDS THE POWERS HE'S MEDDLING WITH--!

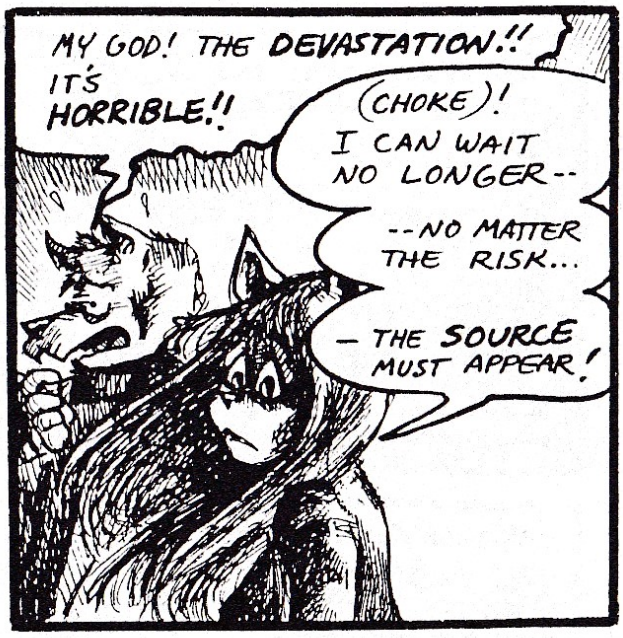
—NOTHING YET, SIRE... THEY'RE JUST WAITING...
SO! SHE'S GOING TO DRAG THIS OUT TO THE LAST MINUTE, EH?

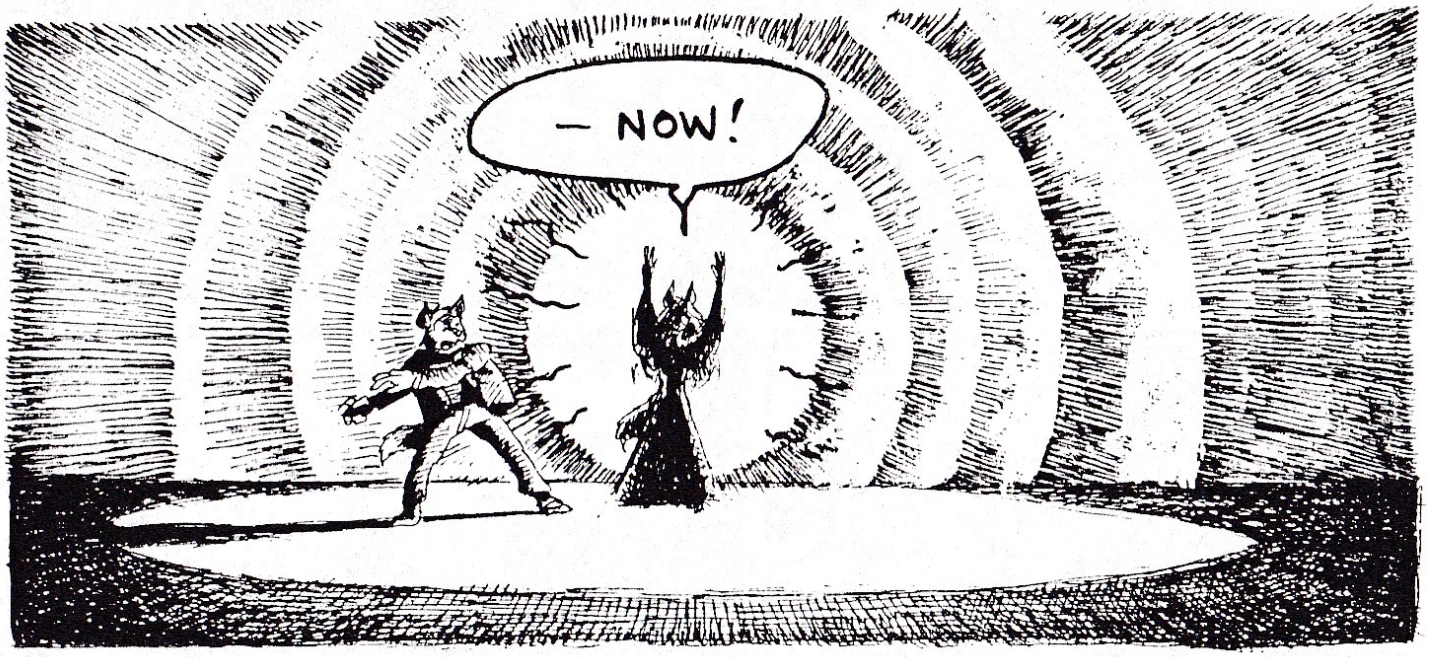

YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING THE AGONY OF YOUR DEFEAT, AGHARTANS -- IT'S PATHETIC!
— I SHALL SHOW MERCY --
— I WILL FORCE YOU TO DEFEND YOURSELVES!

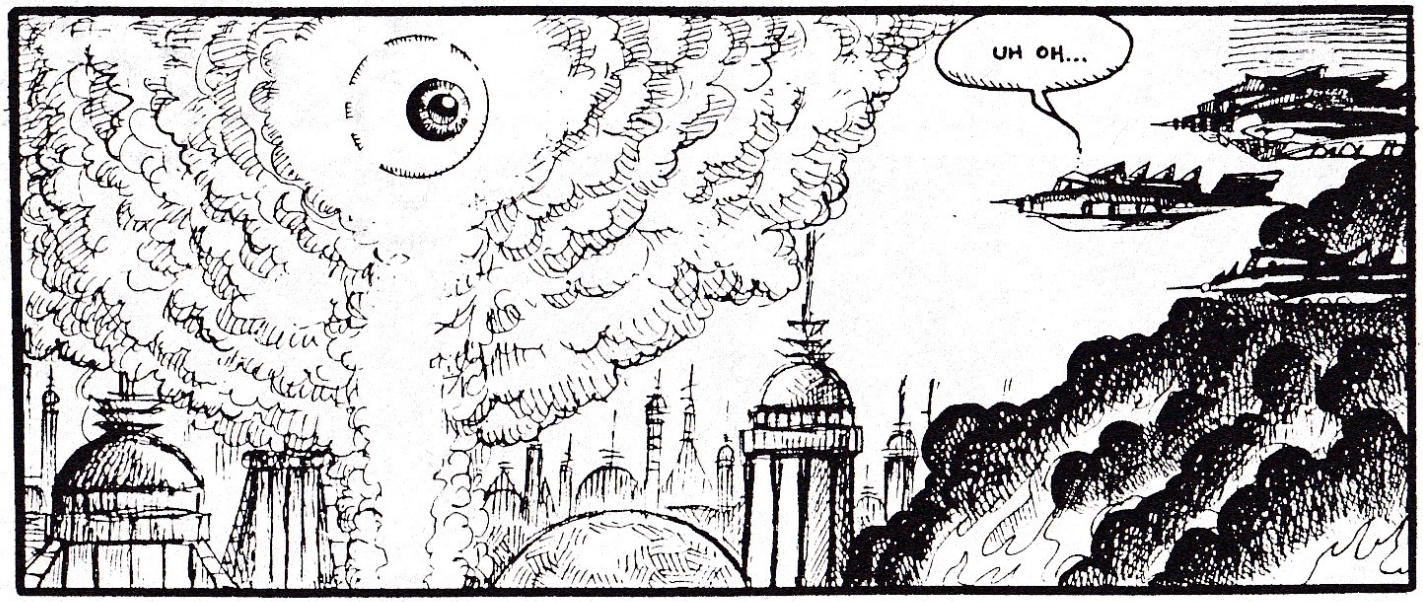
ALL FORCES -- ATTACK!!

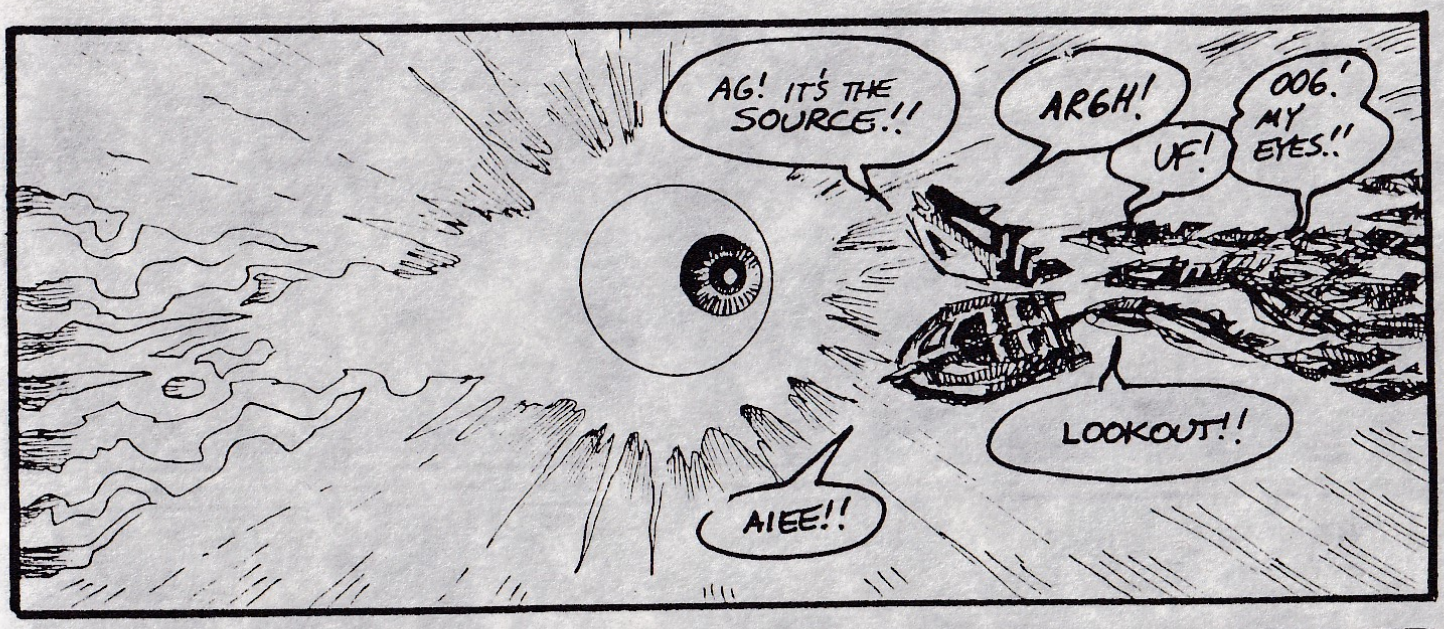
ZZZT!! BZAM!! SKRKK!!


KKRCKK!
SPAK!
GGSSH!
WHROOM!
WOWZERS!!

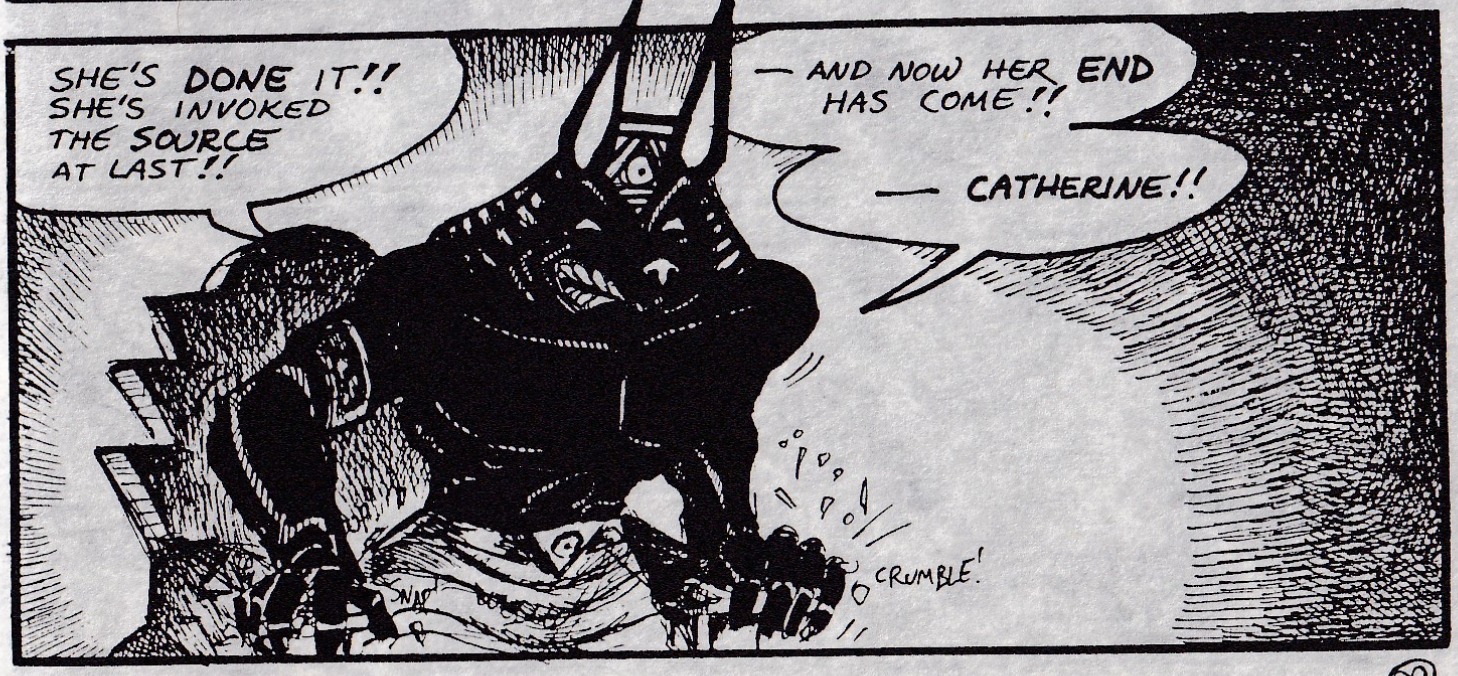

MY GOD! THE DEVASTATION!! IT'S HORRIBLE!!
(CHOKE)! I CAN WAIT NO LONGER--
--NO MATTER THE RISK...
— THE SOURCE MUST APPEAR!

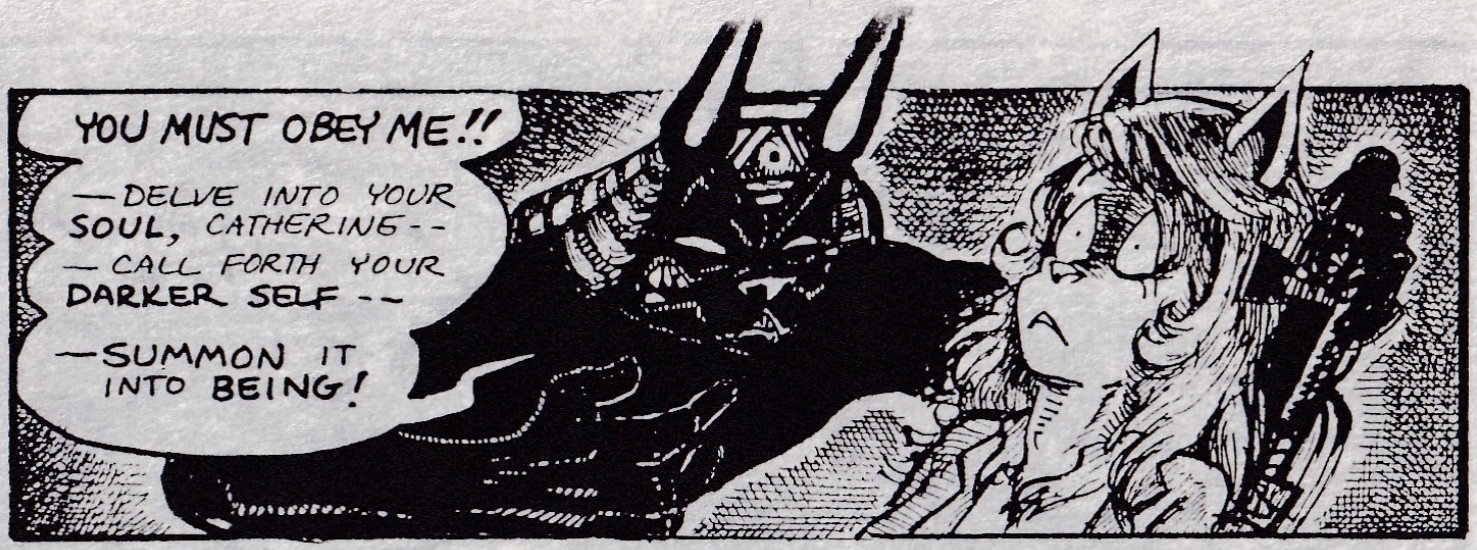

— NOW!


UH OH...


AG! IT'S THE SOURCE!!
ARGH!
UF!
OOG! MY EYES!!
LOOKOUT!!
AIEE!!

FANTASTIC!! --IT --IT'S A MIRACLE!!
-!!- IT'S DRAWING THE FIRE INTO ITSELF!!
-I NEVER DREAMED SUCH POWER EXISTED!!

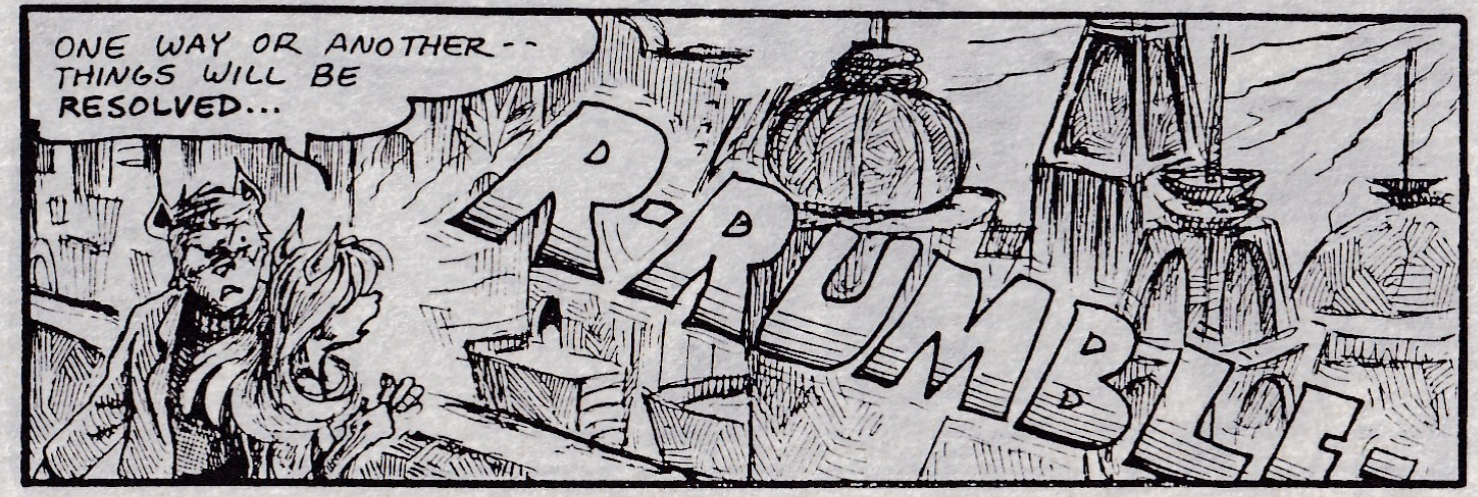

SHE'S DONE IT!! SHE'S INVOKED THE SOURCE AT LAST!!
— AND NOW HER END HAS COME!!
— CATHERINE!!
NO!
CRUMBLE!

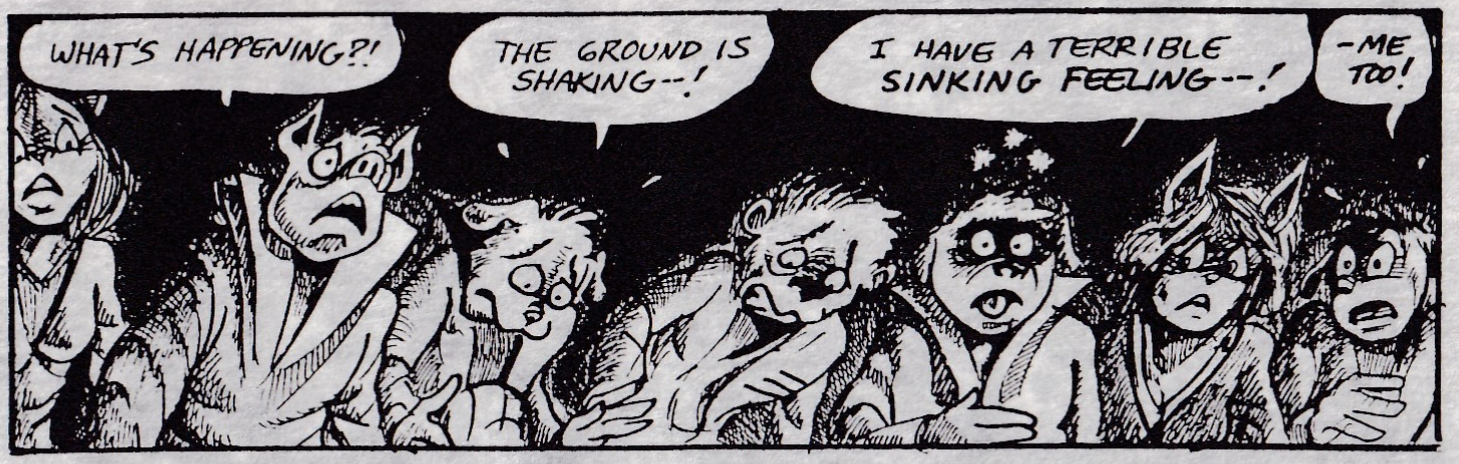

YOU MUST OBEY ME!!
—DELVE INTO YOUR SOUL, CATHERINE--
—CALL FORTH YOUR DARKER SELF --
—SUMMON IT INTO BEING!

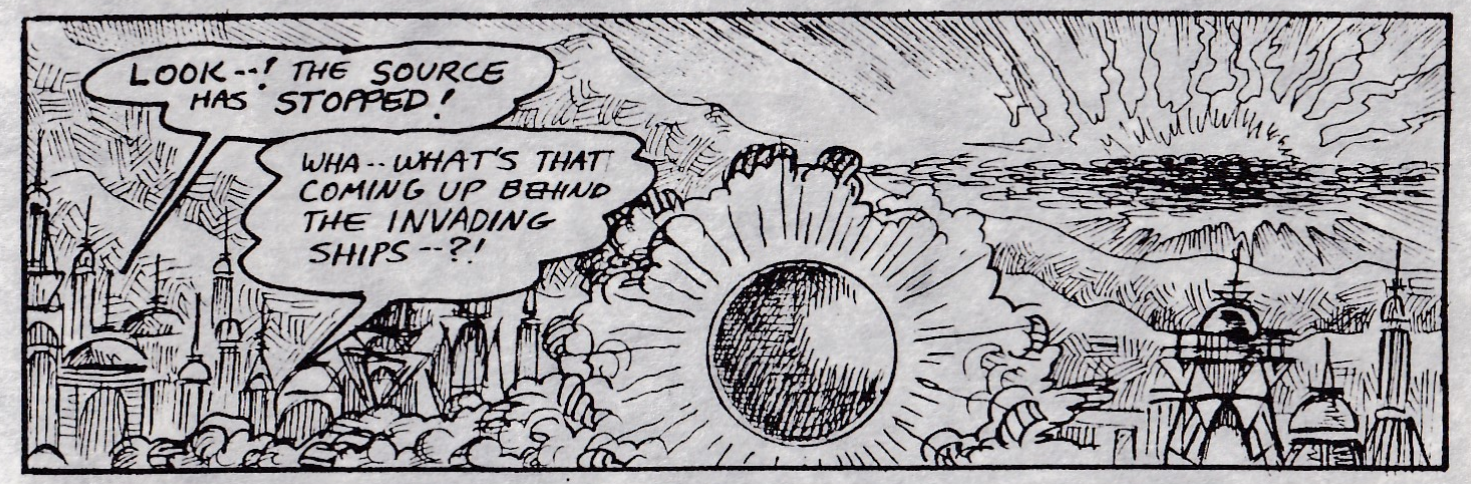
--THE EVIL SIDE OF THE SOURCE--!!

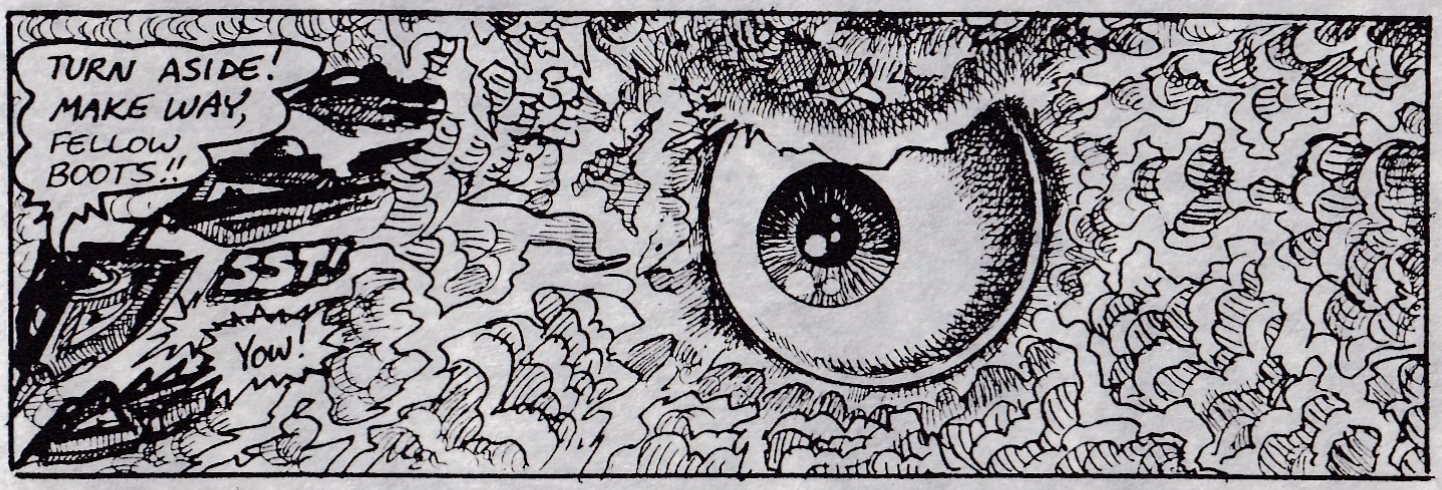
OH!
MARIANA! WHAT'S WRONG?

— IT'S DONE--!
... I FEEL IT!
NOW, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK--

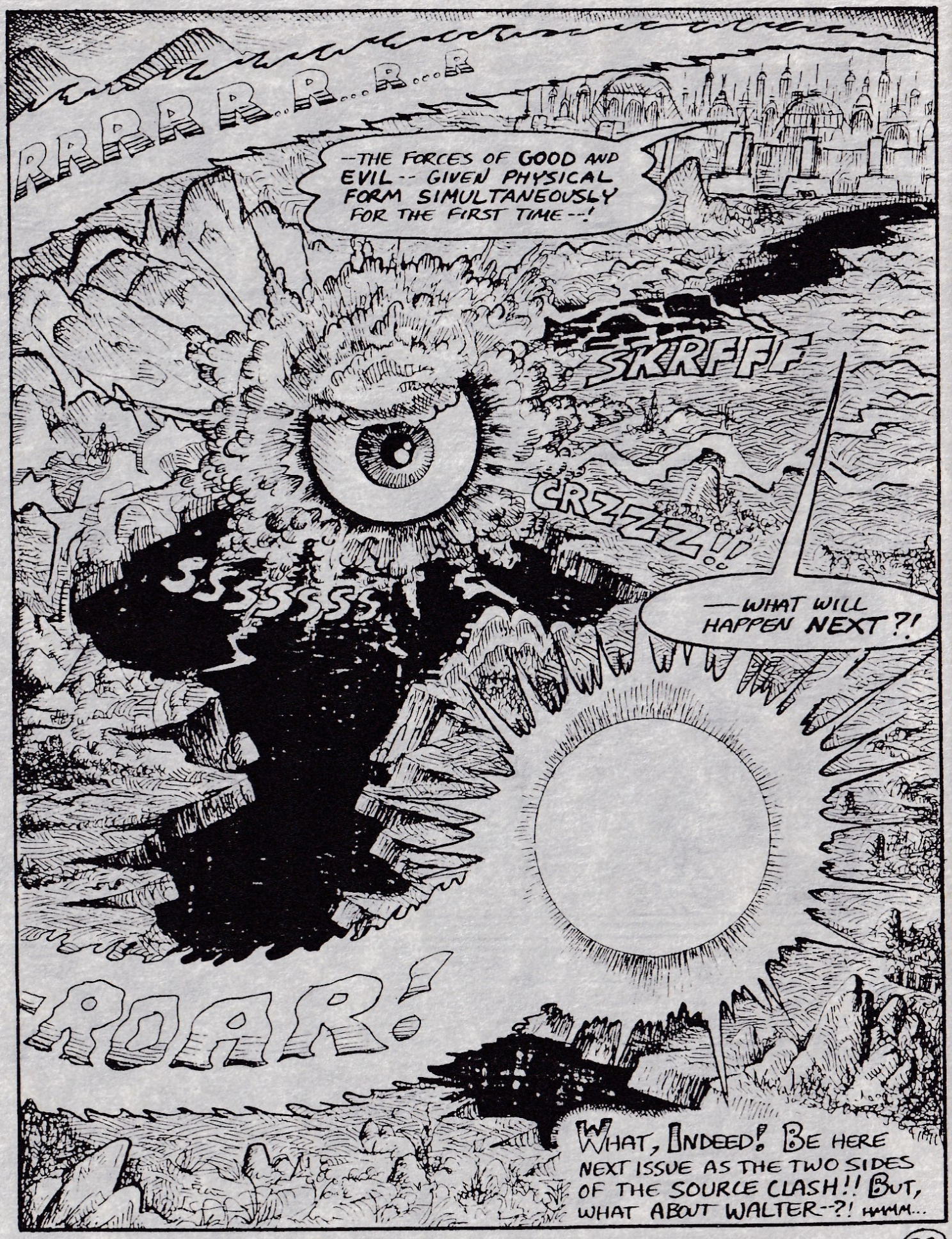

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER-- THINGS WILL BE RESOLVED...
RRUMBLE


WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE GROUND IS SHAKING--!
I HAVE A TERRIBLE SINKING FEELING--!
-ME TOO!


LOOK--! THE SOURCE HAS STOPPED!
WHA--WHAT'S THAT COMING UP BEHIND THE INVADING SHIPS--?!


TURN ASIDE! MAKE WAY, FELLOW BOOTS!!
SSTT
YOW!

GASP --IT LOOKS LIKE THE SOURCE --
--AND YET--
--IT'S NOT!
--IT'S THE SOURCE'S OPPOSITE!!


RRRRRR...R...R
--THE FORCES OF GOOD AND EVIL-- GIVEN PHYSICAL FORM SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR THE FIRST TIME--!
SKRFFF
CRZZZZ!!
SSSSSSS
--WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?!
ROAR!
WHAT, INDEED! BE HERE NEXT ISSUE AS THE TWO SIDES OF THE SOURCE CLASH!! BUT, WHAT ABOUT WALTER--?! HMMM...

MEANWHILE...

...THERE'S THE BOOTS' AUXILIARY FLYER I TOLD YOU ABOUT, WALTER...

--AND YOU KNOW HOW TO FLY IT?

— I KNOW EVERYTHING, WALTER!

— EVERYTHING, EXCEPT...

— EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THE FUTURE -- YEAH, I KNOW!

— SEEMS LIKE YOUR KNOWLEDGE IS KINDA ARBITRARY IN ITS SELECTIVENESS!

...YOU MAY BE CLOSER TO THE TRUTH... THAN YOU KNOW, WALTER...

...ACTUALLY, THE FUTURE IS OPEN TO MY KNOWLEDGE... I JUST BLOCK IT FROM MY CONSCIOUSNESS BY MY OWN CHOICE --!

HUH? WHY?!

BECAUSE... KNOWLEDGE OF FUTURE EVENTS CAN BE... ...DANGEROUS!

...AND THE TEMPTATION TO TRY TO PREVENT THINGS IS INSIDIOUS --!!

EXCUSE ME...

CLONK!

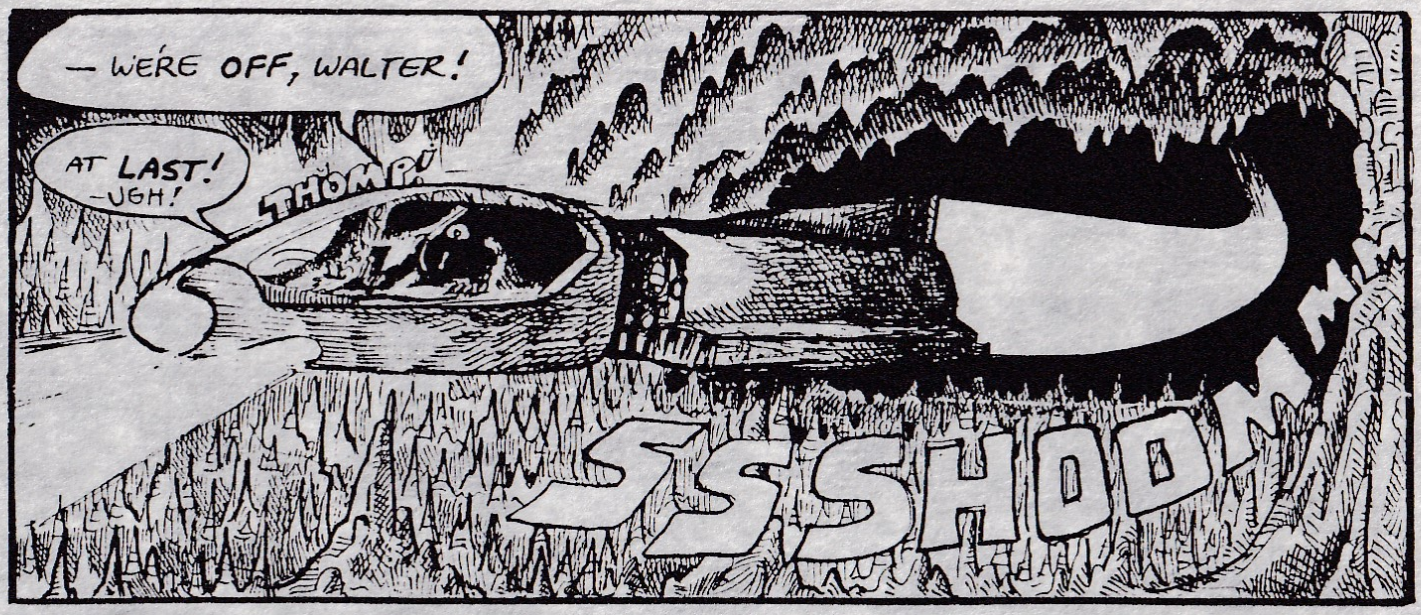
ONLY ONE GUARD -- MOST OF THE BOOTS ARE IN ZANO MANON'S ARMY... ATTACKING AGHARTA...

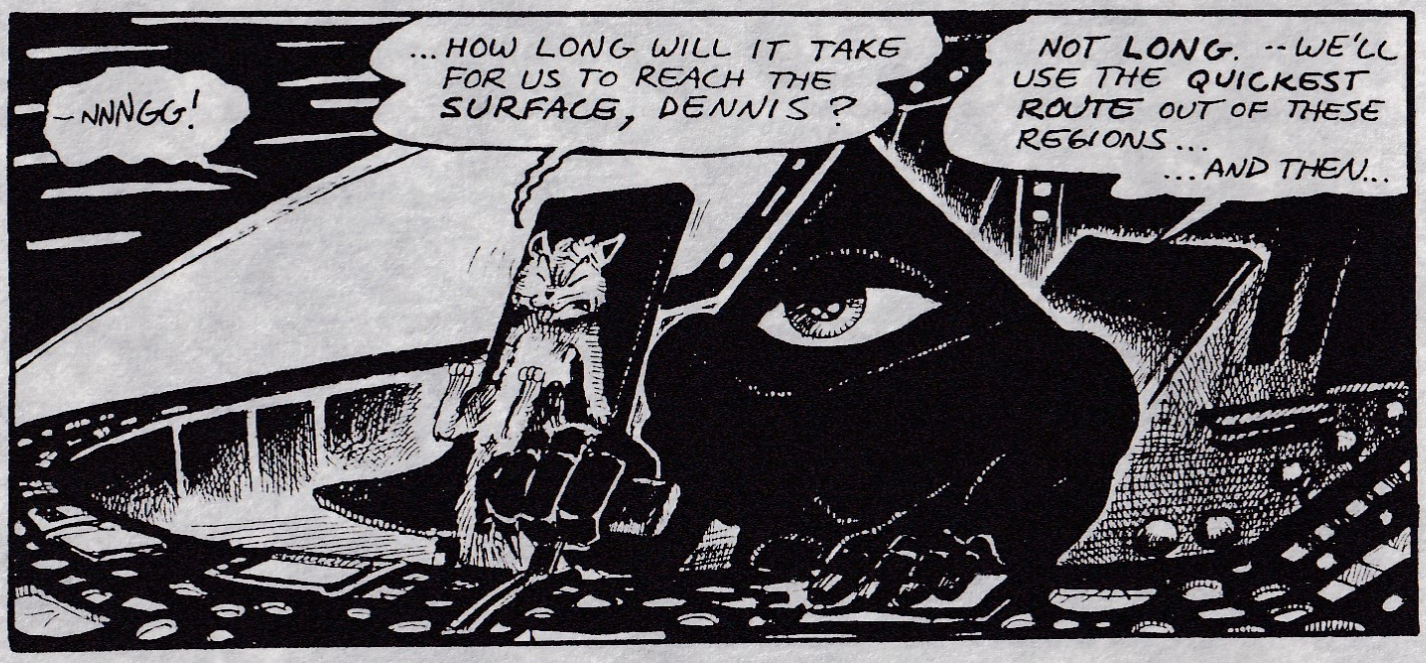
--THEN -- LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!

SHOVE!

NG!

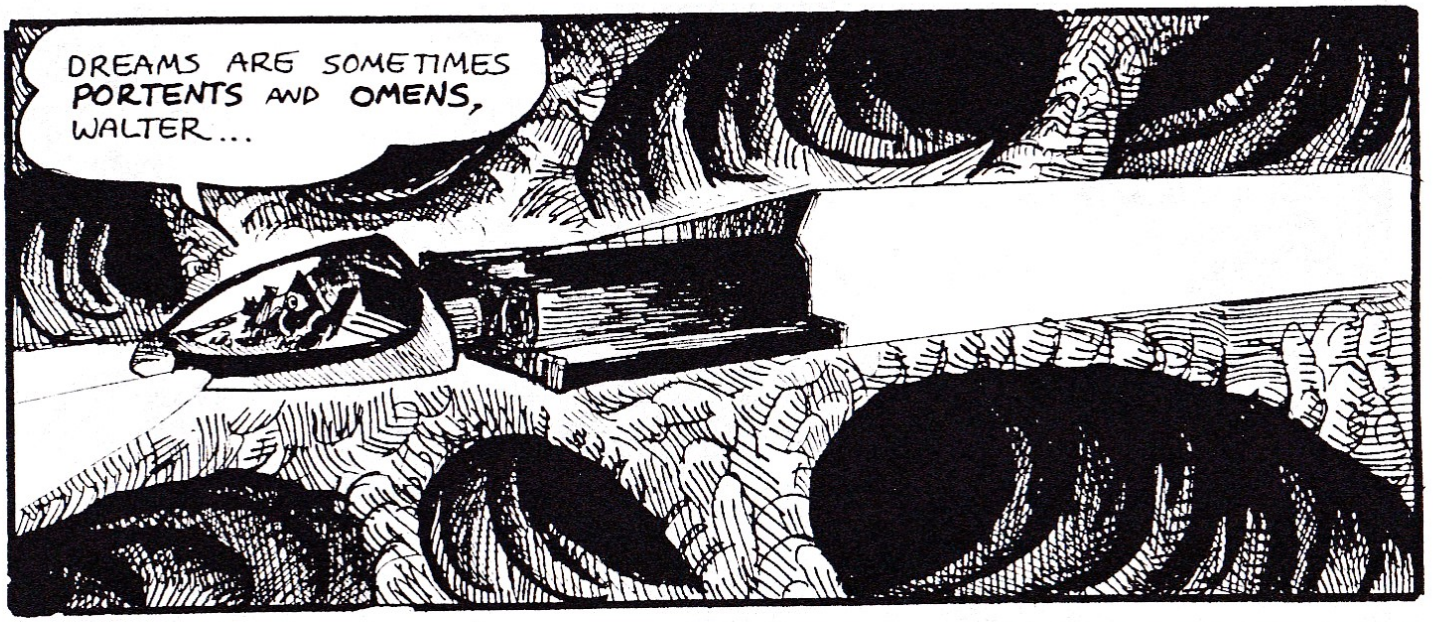
WHAM!

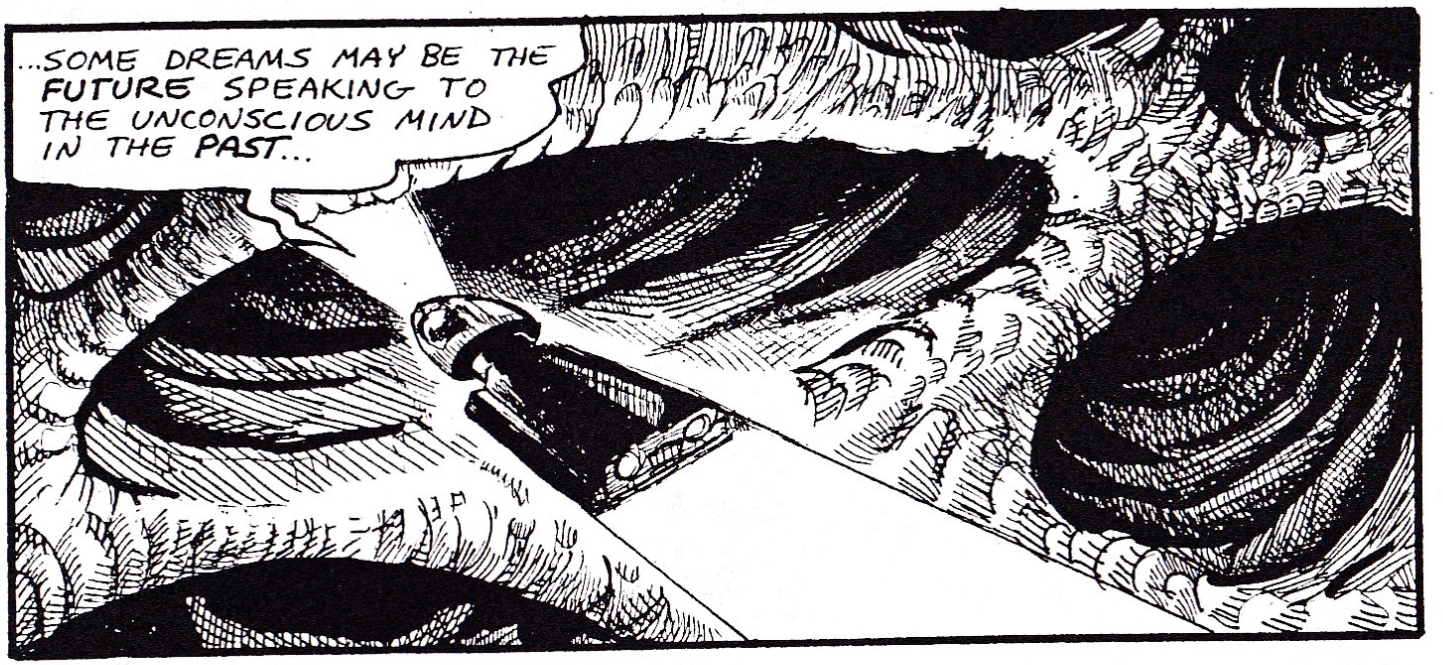

— WE'RE OFF, WALTER!
AT LAST! —UGH!
THOMP!
SSSHOOM

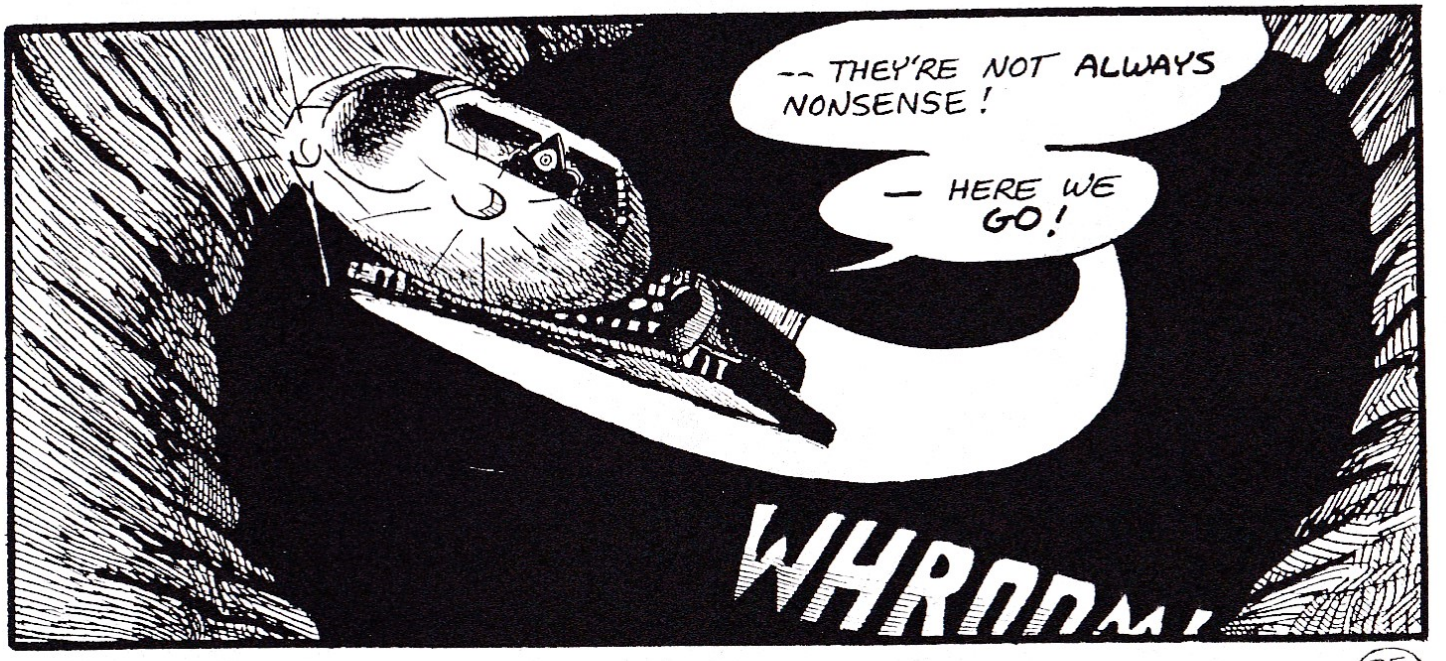

—NNNGG!
...HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR US TO REACH THE SURFACE, DENNIS?
NOT LONG. --WE'LL USE THE QUICKEST ROUTE OUT OF THESE REGIONS...
...AND THEN...

...THROUGH AN EXTINCT VOLCANIC CHIMNEY IN ICELAND!
...E.T.A. IN ARKVILLE... — 30 MINUTES!
PEEL!

SIGH E... Y'KNOW... THIS SEEMS LIKE A VERY WEIRD DREAM...


DREAMS ARE SOMETIMES PORTENTS AND OMENS, WALTER...


...SOME DREAMS MAY BE THE FUTURE SPEAKING TO THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND IN THE PAST...


-- THEY'RE NOT ALWAYS NONSENSE!
— HERE WE GO!
WHRNNN!

—TO BE CONTINUED...

BACK WORD

HOWDY all you buckaroos and buckarettes. If you're reading this at all, you're probably reading it after you've perused the installment of The Hollow Earth in this issue, so it's probably pointless to try and tantalize you with teasing hints about what's in the story. Instead, let me bore you with some technical bullbleep. This, Walter's 11 th issue is being printed almost simultaneously with the next issue (#12), since the story and art are completed, and I had planned for this to be a giant, double-sized issue like #10 . Sigh! You plan and plan...

Anyway, I decided to return to our original digest-size format, and also to split the book into two issues. The reasons for this are primarily economic--those larger books were much more appealing to me personally, but let's face it--how many people do you know who'll shell out $5.95 for a limited, xerox-printed, black and white funny animal comic? Not many I'll bet. Also, at this smaller size I can print up more copies and even indulge in some editorial and technical gimmickry (like the color page inserts this ish!). I figured the most important thing was to get the books out--so I'm going for the less imposingly sized-and-priced digests.

Hey, at least I made a stab at the full-sized magazine format, and who knows --perhaps I will be able to return to it at some point in the future. You never know **what's** going to happen in this screwy world.

I guess I also owe you beloved regular readers (all 3 of you) an explanation as to why this issue took two #%*!!?#@#!! years getting here-- well, it's a long story... and to tell you the truth, I just don't want to get into it right now. So, please forgive me if I weasel out of explanations for the time being. Hopefully, I can think of a really good excuse in time for the next ish!

Well, I see the dogies are a-lowin' fer supper, and it's time to say goodbye... So long 'till next time, saddle pals...

Your slightly unhinged chum,

"UNCLE"
MARK

Well, here we are again with another wonderful,whimsical,weird,wacky, wild and wooly edition of the letter page! Let's see what we've got...

Dear Mark,

Wow! Quite impressive, this latest double issue of "The Hollow Earth"--I liked everything about it except the price! It was jam packed, though. My favorite thing in it was Dennis. In this one issue he has become my favorite character. His almost unlimited knowledge and obvious physical difference makes him a mysterious, fascinating guy. I mainly like him though, because he's funny--and he's also human enough to misunderstand his own information--I especially enjoyed his comment about wishing he understood as well as knew everything.

As for the rest of the book--you surprised me. I was sure Walter's confrontation with Zanomanon would resolve a lot of things, but I can see you're just beginning to torture the poor cat.

I like it! Hey Markey! Five issues left, and counting.

Your chum,

Mike Stephens

Thanks, again, for your comments, Mike. Glad you like Dennis, 'cuz you'll see a lot of him in upcoming issues. And yes, it's fun to torture Walter--he squeals so deliciously!!

Dear Mark,

You may not remember me, but I met you at the Dallas Fantasy fair last year, where I bought a copy of Walter Kitty in the Hollow Earth. I'm the guy who spoke to you about being nuts about Danny Elfman's music. I was just wondering if you were still a fanatic about his stuff like I am? I've ferreted out just about everything he's done, and am desperate for more. You mentioned that you had some hard-to-get singles that he had done --as well as the names of some of his lesser-known film work. Please let me know what they are, as I hunger for new stuff from the Elf man.

Sincerely,

Don Tunnes

P.S. I also enjoyed your comic. When is your next issue?

Hmm. Good thing you had that "P.S.", or I'd have had no excuse to print your letter. Yes, I still love Elfman's music, although I have to admit to being lukewarm about some of his more recent film scores. "Edward Scissorhands" was great, but his score for "Article 99" was extremely bland. My eager anticipation of his "Batman Returns"soundtrack had me expecting the moon, but I was disappointed by it. I'm hoping it'll grow on me, but it just isn't as magnificent as his original "Batman" score. Rare Elfman singles include; "Mama", a 45rpm single released

(Continued)

as part of the special boxed 45 set of the Oingo Boingo album "Boi-ngo".
"Happy" main title song for the film "Summer School", available on the film"s soundtrack album.
"Bachelor Party", and "I'm Burning Up Now,Baby",songs on the soundtrack album of "Bachelor Party".
You should also be aware of Elfman's album, "Music for a Darkened Theater", which compiles his music for "Tales from the Crypt" and "The Simpsons", as well as other more obscure film work he's done.
Whew! If I'm not careful, I'll have to change this column to "The Elfman Chronicles"!
I owe a lot to his music, though. It's inspired and influenced "The Hollow Earth" quite a bit, along with the film scores of Bernard Herrmann, who Elfman cites as a major influence, incidentally.
Wow! Isn't culture fun, boys and girls?

Dear "Uncle" Mark,

After wading through eleven issues of funny animal adventure comics, I just want to know one thing; WHEN THE HELL ARE WALTER AND CATHERINE GOING TO HAVE WILD, PASSIONATE, AND GRAPHICALLY EXPLICIT SEX?!!!
I guarantee your readership would increase tremendously. Forget color covers, forget double issues, forget even the barest semblance of plot or characterization. Just lots and lots of raw, naked, drooling SEX! SEX!! SEX!!!
Thank you for your attention.

Sensuously,

Dr. Zachary Smith
Alpha Centauri,Space

You know, it's funny, but when I read OMAHA, I always want those characters to stop having sex and go off and have fantasy adventures. So go figure.

Dear Walter Kitty,

I like you very much. I have a kitty cat too, but he doesn't look like you. He is ornge(sic) and likes to sleep on my bed. Do you live in your own house, or do you live with somebody like my kitty? My kitty is named Montmorency and he likes to eat all the time. I like to look at your comic all the time, and I can draw you too.

Cindy Hise,
3rd Grade

Excellent likeness of Walter, Cindy. Walter likes you, too. He's bugging me to let him come live with you and Monty, because he would like to eat all the time, too!

Well, that's all the room we have for now boys and girls. Join us next ish for more anthropomorphic adventures beneath the earth as Walter and the gang race against the clock to thwart Zanomanon's evil plans. Meanwhile, as Commander USA used to say, "Keep your head in the wind, and your tail to yourself".

Felis Excrementis!

WRITE US!! Our address is

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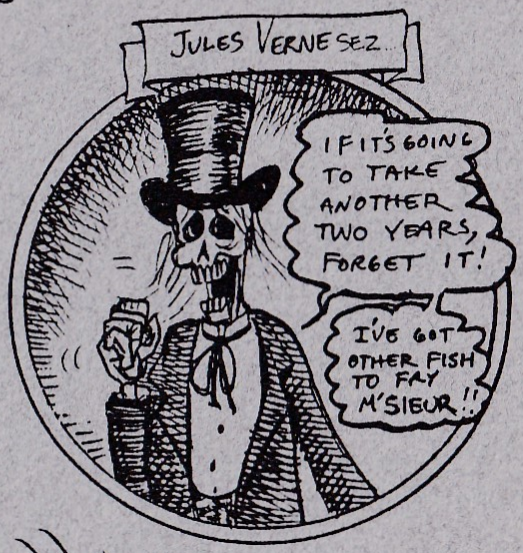
NEXT ISSUE:

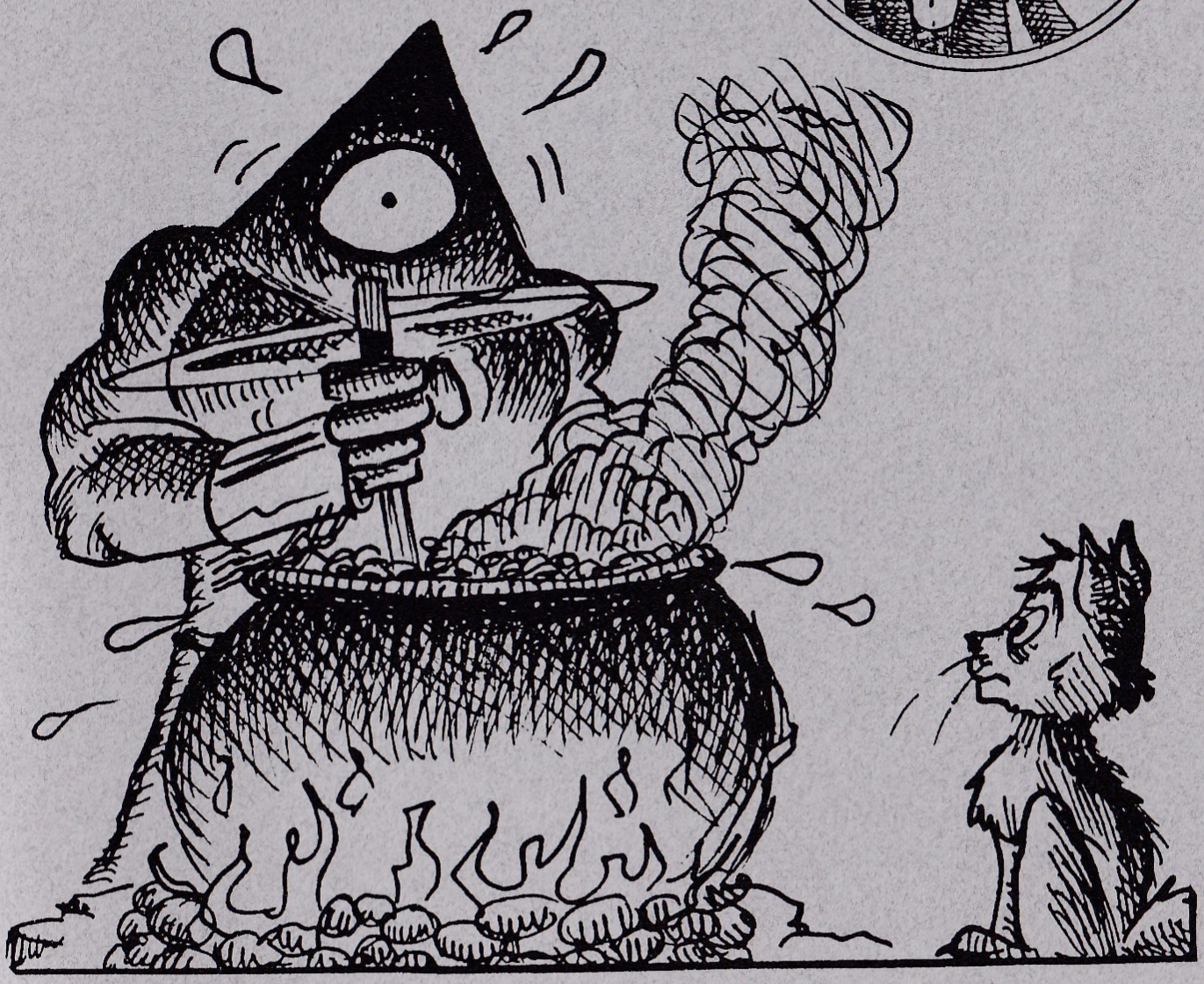
Walter and Dennis must race to find the **Talisman of Zanomanon**--as the two sides of the **Source** slug it out at the center of the earth--

All this and the origin of **Dennis,** too!!

WALTER KITTY #12--

On sale soon!!!





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